



FOOTBALL VICTORIA 2005
annual review



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Players and umpires line up before the start of the TRUenergy VFL Grand Final at Optus Oval.



FOOTBALL VICTORIA: HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2005

COMMUNITY CLUBS PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

The success of initiatives undertaken by Football Victoria's Community Football Unit in 2005 can be judged by the widespread involvement of leagues and clubs in all activities, a positive sign for the future of football in this state.

The better equipped our club volunteers are in being able to cope with the complexities of running a football club today – with the influx of new rules and regulations – the more successful they will be in underpinning the future of Australian Football in this state.

The recently formed Community Football Unit proved an effective support vehicle for Victorian community clubs and leagues during the year, providing training programs and innovative resources to meet their needs.

The unit's objective was to better equip volunteers in their efforts to establish successful clubs by creating safe, healthy and welcoming environments that will attract increased participation, including players, volunteers and supporters.

More than 6200 club volunteers attended training courses conducted by Football Victoria, the Victorian Country Football League and metropolitan leagues during the year. Of particular note was the popularity of club volunteer courses conducted in March at the State Netball and Hockey Centre and in September at the MCG.

Other initiatives by the unit in 2005 included the rolling out of its Quality Club Program, establishing club administrative and local environmental standards for community football clubs around the state and recognising those who achieve those standards. A new resource, the much sought after *Grants Funding Guide*, which unravels the complex area of government grants, was part of the club

resource kit distributed at the start of 2005. The kit also included a *Volunteers for Football* CD-rom.

165 NEW TEAMS

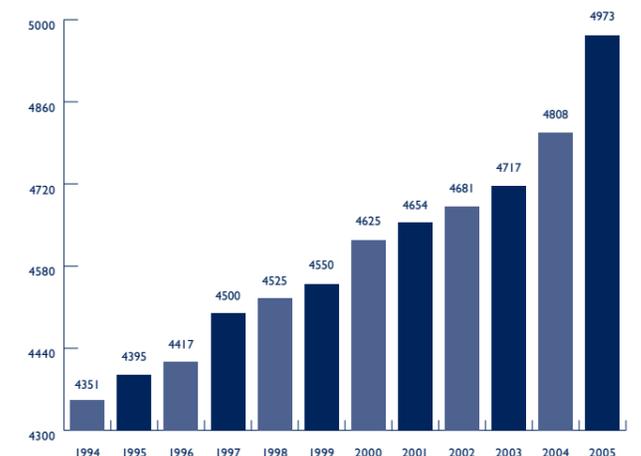
Football in Victoria is alive and well judging by the growth in the number of teams. Since 1994, there has been a 14 per cent increase, or 622 new teams established.

In 2005 there were 165 new teams, the highest growth on record. The previous highest increase was 91 teams in 2004.

While this growth is evidence of the popularity of Australian Football in this state, it has also magnified the shortage of grounds, placing pressure on councils, leagues and clubs to cater for increasing player numbers.

Football Victoria is working with the relevant authorities in state and local government to ensure that continued growth in our game is factored into governments' future planning.

TEAMS



Players from Bentleigh's Tucker Road Primary School burst through the banner before the Grand Final of the VPSSA competition.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

That we have not only survived that process, but also enjoyed record growth in participation is a testament to all involved.

BOB TREGEAR, Chairman, Football Victoria



Australian Football has undergone enormous change over the past two decades, nowhere more so than in its heartland, Victoria.

Transformation from the original VFL to a fully professional, national AFL competition has driven a multitude of structural changes, including the formation of Football Victoria as the recognised state body for the game.

That we have not only survived that process, but also enjoyed record growth in participation in community-level football over the past three years is a testament to all involved, from volunteers at local clubs and AFL Auskick centres, through to the commissioners and staff of the AFL. It is confirmation of the social value of our game to the Victorian community.

The AFL and its 16 clubs are acknowledged as the pacesetters in Australian professional sport and entertainment. The commercial appeal of the game at the highest level and the acumen of its administrators were demonstrated by the value of television broadcast rights recently announced. However, it should be remembered that the 600-plus AFL players represent less than 0.15% of all active participants in the game. With more than 214,000 active participants and 1120 clubs in Victoria alone, community-level football is the breeding ground for the game's success on the national stage.

The enduring success of community football is built on the commitment and effort of volunteer officials and administrators and supporters. Most of these people make contributions in return for the enjoyment they experienced as players.

Typical of the volunteer brigade is Bob Templeton, OAM, who recently retired as a director of the Victorian Country

Football League after almost 50 years continuous service.

A former president of Hamilton Football Club, the Western Border Football League and the VCFL, Bob devoted a large part of his life to the administration of the game he relished as a player.

Bob was intimately involved in the development of organisational structures that have contributed so much to the growth of the game, including the formation of the WBFL, VCFL and Football Victoria. He is representative of the thousands of volunteers whose dedication in the face of a constantly changing environment has contributed to the success of the game at all levels.

The ever-growing burden of regulation and community expectation on our volunteer administrators is perhaps our greatest challenge. We must provide the organisational structures and regulatory environment to encourage continued growth and reward voluntary effort.

This will necessarily involve further changes to our traditional structures as we strive for critical mass in local leagues and economies of scale across the state. We must be prepared to adapt the game and its organisation to ongoing changes in social and demographic conditions.

At the elite level, our VFL competition continues to provide the link between community football and the AFL.

The VFL delivers an essential service to Victorian AFL clubs by providing high quality competition for AFL-listed players not selected in their senior teams. VFL clubs also provide the pathway for players to progress from community football and the TAC Cup development program to the elite level.

A major challenge for the VFL competition and its clubs is the high number of AFL-listed players who must be

accommodated each week. With 10 AFL clubs in Victoria, more than half of each aligned VFL clubs' senior players each week are provided by their AFL partners. At club level, this presents a challenge in maintaining a sense of clear identity and control by volunteer administrators.

From a game development perspective, there is significantly less opportunity for non AFL-listed Victorian players to compete in the VFL competition than for South Australian or West Australian players in the SANFL and WAFL competitions. Proportionately, Victorian players have only 40 per cent of the opportunities available to their South Australian and West Australian counterparts.

Clearly, further structural changes to the VFL competition will be necessary to address these concerns. Any solution will need to account for the capital and recurrent resourcing of VFL clubs, as well as the needs of AFL clubs. The Football Victoria Board will work closely in coming months with VFL clubs and the AFL to determine the preferred future direction.

One of the key challenges for the Board is to ensure that the supply of playing and training facilities is adequate to meet both current needs and future growth.

Current planning regulations do not guarantee the provision of sufficient grounds for football, let alone the needs of other sports. Both state and local government authorities must accept responsibility for the provision of facilities to meet the needs of a sport intrinsically woven into our social fabric.

While Football Victoria will continue to apply its limited available capital to key development projects, the bulk of the costs must fall to the broader community through governing authorities. The resulting social benefits will more than justify the costs.

More than half the total annual revenue of Football Victoria is provided by the AFL through transfer fees, program grants and capital development funds. On behalf of the entire Victorian football community, I extend sincere thanks to AFL chairman Ron Evans, CEO Andrew Demetriou and AFL commissioners and staff for their ongoing support of the game in this state. Our relationship with the AFL as partners in the delivery and development of football continues to strengthen.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the essential support of our major partners VicHealth, the TAC and TRUenergy, which along with the Melbourne Cricket Club Foundation, plus a host of other corporate partners, combine to make our task possible. We look forward to continuing and extending our corporate relationships with a view to mutually rewarding outcomes.

My thanks also to members of the Football Victoria Board for their dedication and effort over the past year.

David Burnes resigned from the Board in February, 2005, following 10 years involvement in the restructuring of Victorian Football. A former president of Old Xaverians Football Club and the Victorian Amateur Football Association, David was a founding director of Football Victoria. We extend our thanks and best wishes to David and his wife Elizabeth.

Grant O'Riley and Peter Quigley were elected as directors of Football Victoria at the AGM in February, 2005. John Hyett was elected as a director in his own right, following a three-year term as a Board appointee. Andrew Langford-Jones also joined as a Board appointee in February, 2005, replacing David Burnes.

Special thanks are extended to David Doherty (chairman of Football Victoria Development); Peter Stedwell (chairman of the VFL sub-committee), and John Jordan (chairman of the Rules Review Committee) for their valuable contributions and extended commitments.

Finally, to CEO Ken Gannon and all regional and head office staff of Football Victoria, I extend the sincere thanks of the Board for their efforts in successfully managing development of the game through a testing process of change at all levels.

The processes evolution will present ongoing challenges to everyone involved in the administration of the game. The foundations laid by those before us and the commitment demonstrated by current administrators, both volunteer and professional, will ensure Australian Football continues to prosper.

BOB TREGEAR,
Chairman, Football Victoria



STRATEGIC PLAN

The purpose of Football Victoria is to create and maintain a quality environment that provides easy access and encourages participation in Australian Football at all levels throughout Victoria.

This year was the fourth in Football Victoria's strategic plan. This plan, which reflects the AFL's national planning objectives, forms the basis from which Victorian leagues and clubs formulate their own objectives.

This plan is reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure its objectives remain relevant and its strategies reflect Victorian football's needs. The consultative process required to develop a new strategic plan for the next period is underway.

OBJECTIVE	COMMENT
Enhance, amongst all Victorian football bodies, a shared vision for a unified football structure throughout Victoria, with complementary objectives and strategies.	Football in Victoria is the success it is today as a result of the efforts of leagues that run football in their communities on a daily basis. Football Victoria's focus is on harnessing the strength of football in this state, and to work collaboratively to achieve what is in the best interests of the state as a whole.
To continuously develop and improve all facets of Australian Football across Victoria.	This annual report describes the innovative advancements made in football across the state in 2005.
To build a sustainable financial model to underpin the viability of Australian Football throughout Victoria.	Football Victoria works closely with local and state authorities in regards to investment in infrastructure and resources required to support football in this state, including the planning of expenditure that resulted from the Victoria parliamentary committee inquiry into country football. Increased focus has been – and will continue to be placed – on identifying and securing new revenue streams for football in this state, in order to reduce the dependency on the AFL.
To build a credible, viable and attractive VFL competition that will be the benchmark for other state-based football competitions.	Growth in attendances, television ratings and the number of players drafted or rookie-listed by AFL clubs were positive signs for the TRUenergy VFL in 2005. Management is midway through a major review to identify and implement new strategies to ensure the continued success of the competition.

Football Victoria's current strategic plan can be found on Football Victoria's website, www.footballvic.com.au.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



David Doherty
2006

David Doherty is a consulting professional and past national chairman of the Logistics Association of Australia. David umpired over 300 games and was involved in coaching junior football. He is a past president of the VMFL and is the chairman of the Football Victoria Development Advisory Board. He is also chairman of the Transport, Distribution and Logistics Industry Round Table and president of the Canada-Australia Institute.

Peter Stedwell
2008

Peter Stedwell is a director of Solagran Ltd. He was a director of the former VFA board, a highly regarded former VFA player, coach, and president of the Dandenong Redlegs.

Bob Tregear
(Chairman)
2008

Bob Tregear is a director of leisure management consulting firm Thompson Tregear Pty Ltd. He was president of the Eastern Football League, director of the former Victorian Metropolitan Football League and VFA. His background in community football spans more than 40 years as a player, junior coach, club committeeman and president.

Grant O'Riley
2008

Grant O'Riley is the managing director of Capstone Financial Planning. He has extensive business experience in the finance sector, with human resource and strategic planning capabilities.

Ken Gannon
(CEO)
2008

Ken Gannon is one of Australia's most respected football administrators. He was CEO of the Geelong Football Club for six years before joining the AFL in 1991. He has been CEO of Football Victoria since its establishment in 1999.

John Hyett
2008

John Hyett is a former mayor and councillor of the City of Sunshine and former commissioner for the Shire of Melton. He is currently chairman/board member of many western region community groups. He has also been involved in VFL and local football clubs at various levels.

Peter Quigley
2008

Peter Quigley hails from Yinnar in Gippsland. He is the business manager for Gippsland Water. Peter's involvement in football has included positions with the Victorian Country Football League, Mid Gippsland Football League and the Yinnar Football and Netball Club.

Andrew Langford-Jones
(Board Appointment)

Andrew Langford-Jones is the Australasian PGA's tour director of tournaments. He is widely known in Victorian football circles as a past VAFA president, with significant involvement at many other levels of the game.

John Jordan SC
2006

John Jordan is a senior counsel. He was a 300-game player in amateur and country football, a former senior coach at VAFA 'A' Grade (1980) and has extensive experience as a local football club administrator.

Geoff Almond
2006

Geoff Almond, former national manager of delivery – equipment and systems, Australia Post, has had extensive experience as a junior football administrator sitting on junior club and league boards for more than 10 years.

Directors are elected by Football Victoria members for four-year terms, with elections held every two years. The expiration date (year end) of each director's term is detailed above.

CEO'S REVIEW

In the past three years, participation has increased by 23,100... a tremendous achievement that everyone in Victorian football can feel extremely proud of.

KEN GANNON, CEO, Football Victoria



As we look back over the formative years of Football Victoria, it's gratifying to see the positive changes that have occurred in the Victorian football environment.

Our strong position is a result of having a more cohesive administrative structure working well with all our members – the local, country and metropolitan leagues and the VFL clubs – and one of our key partners, the AFL.

Like all sports, we are mindful of keeping up-to-date statistics. We are now seeing better national data that we rely on to measure our performance, both internally and externally. That information portrays a very healthy and strong base from which to continue to build our sport.

This reliable data is important: it helps us forge strong links with government and sponsors, and with local community support.

In this annual report, our department and program managers indicate how their respective areas have progressed over the past 12 months.

Our data shows there has been strong growth in popularity in Australian Football across all sectors. In the past three years, participation increased by 23,100. It is a tremendous achievement that everyone in Victorian football can feel extremely proud of.

This can be measured at all levels – from grassroots community level to the AFL sector – with both attendances and television ratings on the rise. Importantly, participation in our game revolves around players, plus – just as importantly – umpires, volunteers, committee people and patrons.

It's pleasing to report that growth continued across the board, from AFL Auskick groups and school programs, to metropolitan and country clubs and teams, our new

underage female football competition and women's football generally, and the AFL Recreational Football program. Growth over that period also means new clubs – we welcome those entities to the Football Victoria community, and trust that they develop in a meaningful way.

We are particularly encouraged by the support we always receive from the AFL. We are also encouraged by the State Government's support of our country football and netball facilities program.

The recently concluded parliamentary inquiry into Victorian country football saw \$4 million worth of capital planning injected into country areas, as well as additional grants for the important area of umpire development. In November, additional State Government funding was allocated to this area.

The AFL continued its partnership with the Victorian Government by announcing a multicultural program and the appointment of three development officers in Melbourne suburban areas. They will work with diverse communities to ensure they have the opportunity to enjoy and participate in our great game. All clubs and leagues must reach out to maintain the high level of community contact to enable our game to move forward.

In the more traditional settings of Victorian football, the TRUenergy VFL competition continued to grow in stature and quality, with increased recognition. It was evident on many fronts: the Victoria-South Australia representative match at North Port Oval; the inaugural Under-22 North-South match played as a curtain raiser to the state match, and the exciting TRUenergy VFL Grand Final between Sandringham and Werribee.



Young stars of the future in a game between the Yarra Junior Football League and the Waverley Junior Football Association.

Photo courtesy BOXANDICE Sporting Photography



The healthy partnerships between VFL clubs and Victorian-based AFL clubs continued to grow in 2005, with even stronger ties being built. Since the formation of the competition in 2000, several adjustments to the alignment structure have been made, changes that can be expected from time to time, especially given the nature of what is a young and developing competition.

In 2006, Port Melbourne will be a stand-alone club, while the Kangaroos, Port's AFL partner for the past three years, will split their alignment arrangements between North Ballarat and Tasmania.

The TRUenergy VFL is being viewed with increasing confidence by AFL clubs, which see the competition as an ideal platform for players to develop in, hone their skills and prepare to take an immediate step to the elite level. That was evident on a weekly basis in 2005. Such is the strength of the competition that players can be picked for the VFL reserves one week, and several weeks later be playing at AFL level. It is with pride that our state league can boast more players drafted to the AFL than from other state leagues.

Congratulations to Sandringham, which won its second straight TRUenergy Cup, and to Williamstown, which won the Grand Final in the reserves, where the standard of football continues to rise.

South Australia also should be congratulated on its narrow victory over Victoria in what was one of the best examples in recent times of the skill and excitement of Australian Football.

Well done also to Ian Callinan from Tasmania and Paul Johnson from Sandringham, who tied for the Liston Trophy.

The TAC Cup continues to foster young players, helping them reach their maximum potential and gain opportunities to represent their state at a national carnival. It also prepares some players for the NAB AFL Draft. Victoria now has 55 per cent of all AFL players, even though it has only 45 per cent of the national player base.

In 2005, we saw talented young men like Brett Deledio from the Murray Bushrangers, the No. 1 draft choice at the NAB AFL Draft in 2004, step up to AFL football with Richmond and make an immediate impact, eventually winning the NAB Rising Star Medal.

Underpinning the success of our talented player pathway was the achievement of Vic Metro in winning both the NAB AFL Under-16 and NAB AFL Under-18 AFL Championships. Clearly, that success endorsed Victoria as the premier youth development state in the country.

Congratulations to the Gippsland Power, who won the TAC Cup premiership by defeating the Dandenong

Stingrays. Congratulations also to Morrish Medal winner Fortunato Caruso from the Calder Cannons.

Football Victoria activities can't prosper without the on-going support of key partners like VicHealth, TRUenergy, the TAC and the Melbourne Cricket Club Foundation. We sincerely appreciate their support, just as we are indebted to sponsors across all levels of the game.

Recently, the AFL announced a change in the player transfer fee system, with the introduction of a national talent development grant process where player milestones will no longer be included in the system. Each state will allocate a fixed amount of funding in lieu of the traditional transfer fees (see opposite page).

Football Victoria will also make grants to leagues when Victorian umpires officiate in their first AFL matches.

“The healthy partnerships between VFL clubs and AFL clubs continued to grow in 2005.”

Football Victoria's Rules Committee this year evaluated the traditional player clearance arrangements with a view to modernising them. The long and unwieldy process has now been streamlined. A trial electronic process is now in place with several leagues, and this will be monitored during 2006.

If it continues to be successful, Football Victoria will look to all leagues throughout the state to adopt the system. We are keen for leagues, particularly those in the country, to join the metropolitan leagues conducting the trial. The trial involves the Eastern, Diamond Valley, Mornington Peninsula Nepean and Southern football leagues.

Football Victoria would be very reluctant to impose a statewide system without testing the various mechanisms for moving players from club to club around Victoria. All the early signs, however, are positive.

It is hoped that all levels of our game continue to share the common vision of Victorian football maintaining its position as the No. 1 sport in the state.

To that extent Football Victoria's board of directors is currently undertaking a review of our strategic plan, in consultation with all members.

This plan will be released shortly and should give everyone renewed confidence in the direction of Victorian football.

Finally, a special mention to Bob Templeton, OAM, who after some 50 years of dedicated service to football in this state, recently retired from his directorship of the VFCL. Bob played a defining role aligning the direction of country football with the path taken by football as a whole in the state.



Warrnambool's Emmanuel College (green and white) and Shepparton's Notre Dame College featured in the MCC Herald Sun Country Shield.

CHANGES TO THE AFL TRANSFER SYSTEM

The AFL's decision in 2005 to replace the transfer fee system with talent development fee grants to each state marks a major change in its method of distributing funds to the states.

AFL transfer fee funding traditionally recognised the efforts all clubs put into nurturing young players eventually drafted into the AFL. This funding was based on what were referred to as 'player milestones', with AFL clubs making contributions when drafted players achieved specific milestones, including their first and 10th games. Payments were also made when players started their third AFL season.

The AFL and its clubs sought an even balance for this funding and aimed to introduce a scheme that would remove the payment variation created by the milestone payment process. The new talent development fee grants scheme introduces a flat fee payment per AFL club.

The annual amount granted to each state will be based on the annual average of each state's previous three years AFL transfer fees, adjusted to include CPI. The annual grant will be in two parts: the first will be a fixed amount, or about 75 per cent of the state's total allocation; the second part of the payment will be in the form of an incentive, where the national pool of the remaining 25 per cent of funds will be shared, according to the number of players drafted from each state each year, as a percentage of the total players drafted nationally.

Based on previous transfer fee payments, Victoria's fixed payment will be about 53 per cent of the total grant, while its share of the remaining 25 per cent national pool will vary from year to year from 40-60 per cent, depending on the number of Victorian players drafted.

Football Victoria currently distributes more than \$1 million annually to leagues and player milestones to clubs. Football Victoria resolved that this funding would remain at similar levels, despite adoption of the AFL's new system.

One of the contentious issues in the past was the distribution of milestone payments. Over the past six years, only 22 per cent of community clubs received these transfer fee payments. While it is acknowledged that good club management has much to do with this, there is also an element of luck involved. There are community clubs that have excellent administration bases, but simply have not been lucky enough to have players drafted.

While Football Victoria is looking to use this funding for the benefit of Victorian football as a whole, it believes that community clubs with links to players drafted to the AFL should be recognised. Accordingly, under the new system, \$3000 will be allocated to clubs for each drafted player linked to those clubs over the preceding three years.

Community football clubs with players previously drafted will have milestones honoured.

The difference between the total of these \$3000 club payments and the previous milestone payments will be directed to Football Victoria members under guidelines for the improvement of the game across all clubs.

It will take three years to fulfil the current milestone commitments, which means the extra funding to Football Victoria members will gradually increase over that period.

This new talent development fee grant will bring more stability to Football Victoria's planning, allows Football Victoria to distribute funding across football in the state, and importantly, also enables Football Victoria to maintain its annual \$1 million investment in local Victorian football.



The TRUenergy VFL provides entertaining, high standard and competitive matches on a weekly basis.

MARTIN STILLMAN, General Manager, VFL



There was an air of confidence among participants, AFL clubs and football enthusiasts in relation to the TRUenergy VFL competition in 2005.

The continued emergence of the VFL as the best state league competition in the country was evident on many fronts.

Footballers continued to view the TRUenergy VFL as the best avenue to impress AFL talent scouts and keep alive their dreams of playing at the elite level.

More than 100 players debuted in the TRUenergy VFL in 2005 – an outstanding achievement and a strong reflection on the professionalism, quality of football and ever-improving player facilities offered by the competition.

While the Round 11 match between the Box Hill Hawks and Williamstown had little bearing on the season, it was in some ways one of the most significant games played in the competition in recent years.

Six-time Copeland Trophy winner, Brownlow medallist and Collingwood captain Nathan Buckley chose to make his comeback from a serious hamstring injury in this match, as did Hawthorn veteran Angelo Lekkas, who had suffered a minor stroke in February and elected to re-launch his career in the TRUenergy VFL.

The decisions of Buckley and Lekkas and their respective clubs highlighted the confidence AFL clubs now have in the competition to properly cater for such high-calibre players.

Such confidence was also reflected in the record number of VFL players either drafted or rookie-listed by AFL clubs in 2004, as well as the number of rookies subsequently upgraded during the 2005 season.

Former Werribee defender Dale Morris illustrated

the talent pool in the TRUenergy VFL. After being rookie-listed by the Western Bulldogs, Morris was upgraded early in the season, played at AFL level for the rest of the year and was then chosen to represent Australia in the International Rules Series against Ireland.

The confidence in the competition extended to the willingness by AFL clubs to allow players to be picked for the VFL reserves competition, where the standard of football soared to new levels. The reserves certainly provided young players with an excellent grounding, plus an appropriate environment to develop their skills.

St Kilda's James Gwilt provided an excellent example, stepping up from the Scorpions' reserves, where he spent the bulk of the season, to play an important role in the Saints' AFL finals campaign.

Attendances increased significantly again, both during the home and away season and also in the finals, with the first three weeks producing record numbers going through the gates.

It emphasised the confidence of the football fan that the TRUenergy VFL provides entertaining, high standard and competitive matches on a weekly basis.

The introduction in 2004 of the 12 AFL-10 VFL players rule for the finals was again employed with resounding success in 2005. It gave supporters at games and television audiences an understanding of the season-long evenness of the competition and provided stand-alone clubs the chance to be competitive during the finals.

Significantly, it also eliminated any notion that the TRUenergy VFL is merely an AFL reserves competition.

Victoria hosted South Australia at Port Melbourne in one of the most memorable representative matches ever played.



Sandringham players (from left) Rod Crowe, Chad Liddell, Andy Biddlecombe and David Gallagher link arms before the TRUenergy VFL Grand Final.



While Victoria came up four points short at the end of an engrossing battle, the match won widespread acclaim for its outstanding quality.

Victoria might have lost on the scoreboard, but in real terms the VFL competition emerged as a winner, with the match regarded as the best played in 2005 outside the AFL.

It was also a glowing endorsement for state representative football, and again emphasised the pride, passion and commitment players had in representing Victoria. Congratulations to coach Mark Williams, his assistant coaches Barry Prendergast, Anthony Alessio and Phil Partington, and all the players.

Another undoubted highlight was the introduction of an Under-22 match, played as a curtain raiser to the Victoria-South Australia match. With teams made up of players from the VFL's North and South clubs, it allowed emerging young players to showcase their talents.

It was interesting to note that recruiting scouts from every AFL club were present to watch what was a high standard match. Just a few months later, AFL clubs drafted five players who took part in that fixture.

The Under-22 concept will certainly become an annual fixture on the VFL calendar.

The first night final at Bendigo's Queen Elizabeth Oval was another successful initiative. More than 4000 fans watched the Bendigo Bombers-Werribee qualifying final in what was another ringing endorsement of the competition.

It certainly vindicated Football Victoria's decision to host a final in regional Victoria.

Support for the competition was also evident in Tasmania throughout the season, with that support rising to new heights during the finals, when an aggregate of 22,000 attended two matches.

Sandringham achieved a first in its 76-year history when it completed back-to-back premierships.

It was an outstanding result founded on the hard work, dedication and devotion of everyone at the club, including president Gary Gilchrist, general manager John Mennie, coach Mark Williams and the players.

As was the case in 2004, Sandringham delved deep to withstand a strong challenge, this time from Werribee in another high quality and absorbing TRUenergy VFL Grand Final.

Victorian representative rover Ian Callinan provided Tasmania with its first Liston Trophy winner when he tied for the prestigious award with Sandringham's Paul Johnson, an AFL listed player with Melbourne. Congratulations to both on their splendid efforts during the season.

Werribee full-forward James Podsiadly snapped Nick Sautner's six-year reign as the Jim 'Frosty' Miller medallist as the competition's leading goalkicker. Sautner became the 14th player in the competition's 128-year history to kick 500 goals.

First-year Williamstown player Jackson Barling, a product of TAC Cup club Calder Cannons, won the Fothergill-Round Medal as the most promising talent in the VFL.

Tasmania's Ben Atkin was awarded the Frank Johnson Medal as the best Victorian against South Australia.

It is also worth acknowledging the milestone of Williamstown premiership captain Troy West, who during the year surpassed Ray Smith's club record of 205 games, a mark that had stood for 40 years. West retired after 208 games to pursue an assistant coaching career with the Seagulls.

Support from our sponsors is critical to the ongoing success of the competition. TRUenergy continued its long standing partnership as the competition's naming rights sponsor in 2005.

ABC TV again played a significant part in the growth of the competition with its weekly match-day coverage. It certainly helped lift the competition's profile.

Sincere thanks to Allen Pridmore, the commentary team of Phil Cleary, Peter Donegan, Ross Booth and Darren Boyd, and the camera crew and technical staff involved in the excellent coverage.

Melbourne station SEN came on board as our radio broadcast partner and its involvement, not only on weekends, but also during the week with various dedicated programs and breaking news, was much appreciated.

With such confidence, stability and consolidation, the VFL competition has much to look forward to in 2006.

MAJOR REVIEW UNDERWAY

The purpose of the state league competition, comprising strong viable and sustainable clubs, supported by a healthy and vibrant community league and club environment, is to provide Victorian players with an opportunity to play at the highest standard in the

state and to maximise their potential. This purpose and the competition's structure and operations are the subject of a major review initiated in 2005 as an integral part of Football Victoria's strategic planning. The review is looking at the competition's current position and

identifying new strategic directions to be taken to ensure continued growth and success of the competition. The review continues in 2006 with the formation of a working party with the AFL given the involvement of all 10 Victorian AFL clubs in the state league.



VICTORIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE CLUBS



BENDIGO BOMBERS

Queen Elizabeth Oval
View St, Bendigo
Joined VFL 1998
Premierships 0
www.bendigobombers.com
Nick Carter



NORTHERN BULLANTS

Australian Motor Finance Oval
Cramer St, Preston
Joined VFL 1903
Premierships 4
bullants.footballvic.com.au
Frankie Raso



BOX HILL HAWKS

Box Hill City Oval
cnr. Middleborough & Whitehorse Rds, Box Hill
Joined VFL 1951
Premierships 1
www.boxhillhawks.com.au
Clinton Alleyway



PORT MELBOURNE BOROUGH

TEAC Oval
Williamstown Rd, Port Melbourne
Joined VFL 1886
Premierships 15
www.pmf.com.au
Chris Obst



CASEY SCORPIONS

Casey Fileds
Berwick Cranbourne Rd, Cranbourne
Joined VFL 1982
Premierships 5
www.springvalefc.com.au
Steve Harrison



SANDRINGHAM ZEBRAS

Trevor Barker Beach Oval
cnr. Beach Rd & Hampton St, Sandringham
Joined VFL 1929
Premierships 9
www.sandringhamfc.com.au
Chad Liddell



COBURG TIGERS

Coburg City Oval
Harding St, Coburg
Joined VFL 1925
Premierships 6
coburgtigers.footballvic.com.au
Eric Kuret



TASMANIA DEVILS

Bellerive Oval
Hobart, Tasmania
Joined VFL 2001
Premierships 0
www.footballtas.com.au
Ben Beams



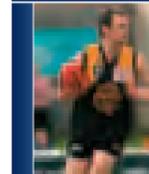
FRANKSTON DOLPHINS

Frankston Oval
cnr. Young St & Plowman Pl, Frankston
Joined VFL 1966
Premierships 0
www.frankstonfc.com.au
John Hynes



WERRIBEE TIGERS

Chirnside Park
Watton St, Werribee
Joined VFL 1965
Premierships 1
www.werribeeefc.com.au
Travis Robertson



GEE LONG CATS

Skilled Stadium, Kardinia Park
LaTrobe Tce, Geelong
Joined VFL 2000
Premierships 1
www.gfc.com.au
James Byrne



WILLIAMSTOWN SEAGULLS

Burbank Oval
Morris St, Williamstown
Joined VFL 1884
Premierships 13
williamstown.footballvic.com.au
Brad Lloyd



NORTH BALLARAT ROOSTERS

AUSTAR Arena
Creswick Rd, Ballarat
Joined VFL 1996
Premierships 0
nthalballatroosters.footballvic.com.au
Julian Field



TAC CUP



Many challenges await, but the TAC Cup competition is well placed to forge ahead and provide aspiring young footballers with every opportunity to reach their potential and make a significant mark on the game's future.

DAVID CODE, Operations Manager, Football Victoria



The 14th season of the TAC Cup competition and associated talent programs produced many highlights, including victories by the Vic Metro teams at the Under-16 and Under-18 national carnivals, both TAC Cup grand finalists seeking their first premiership and several outstanding AFL debut seasons by recent TAC Cup graduates.

The Gippsland Power created history by winning their first TAC Cup premiership. It was due recognition for a team which held top spot for most of the year, provided the bulk of players for Vic Country in the NAB AFL Under-18 National Championships and carried out to perfection the plans of first-year coach Paul Hudson.

Congratulations to the Calder Cannons' Fortunato Caruso for his success in the Morrish Medal, the highest individual award in the TAC Cup. Caruso will return to the TAC Cup in 2006 and has the chance to emulate the feat of another Cannon, David Rodan, who won back-to-back Morrish medals.

Richard Douglas, drafted by the Adelaide Crows, enjoyed a very successful season with both the Calder Cannons and Vic Metro's Under-18 squad. He also won the TAC Cup Coaches' Award, a fitting recognition for a wonderful season.

While the TAC Cup competition is still relatively young, its rich history builds every year. In 2005, former Murray Bushranger Barry Hall had the honour of captaining the Sydney Swans to their first AFL premiership in 72 years.

On the national front, Vic Metro defied the experts to win the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships, another ringing endorsement of Victoria's talented player pathway program.

Vic Metro also won the NAB AFL Under-16 Championships. Congratulations to coach Anton Grbac, his support staff and the players on their fabulous achievement.

Many of the latest crop of TAC Cup graduates will follow the lead set in 2005 by the 19 players who made their AFL debuts.

Brett Deledio, the No. 1 choice from 2004, lived up to his billing with a stunning first season with Richmond. The former Murray Bushranger won the NAB Rising Star Medal after playing every game for the Tigers.

First-year TAC Cup coach Neil Connell, who took the Northern Knights from the competition cellar to the finals, was named Coach of the Year.

Football Victoria thanks three of the TAC Cup's most experienced coaches, Damien Christensen, Gary Colling and Xavier Tanner, for their dedication and unswerving commitment and for imparting their football acumen. They are all pursuing other activities in 2006.

For 2006, Football Victoria will allow each TAC Cup team to register two players who turn 19 after April 30. The aim is to enhance the draft prospects of some late developers.

Football Victoria is proud to be actively involved in promoting the TAC's important 'L 120' campaign, which encourages learner drivers to log 120 hours on the road under all conditions before they gain their licence.

Many challenges await, but the TAC Cup competition is well placed to forge ahead and provide aspiring young footballers with every opportunity to reach their potential and make a significant mark on the game's future.



Jubilant Gippsland Power players with the TAC Cup after they beat the Dandenong Stingrays at the MCG on AFL Grand Final day.



Boundary umpire Mitchell Lefevre (main photo), field umpire Damien Sully (below left) and goal umpire Michael Hammond were named 'Umpire of the Year' in their respective categories.



UMPIRING

While umpiring standards will always attract debate, it must be remembered that like players and coaches, umpires are continually striving to produce their best.

KEVIN MITCHELL, State Director of Umpiring, Football Victoria



The exciting challenge of umpiring in the TRUenergy VFL competition drove our members to new benchmarks in 2005.

It was reflected on a weekly basis by the consistently good performances in the VFL, and also with the elevation of several umpires to the AFL's national panel.

Following the 2004 TRUenergy VFL Grand Final, two of the officiating field umpires, Chris Donlon and Chris Kamolins, were elevated to the AFL national panel, while Damien Sully was named an AFL rookie umpire.

Boundary umpires Mark Foster and Adam Coote and goal umpire Lloyd Fisk also were named AFL umpires.

Since 2000, 12 field, 17 boundary and seven goal umpires have been elevated from VFL panels to AFL level. This clearly demonstrates that the high standard of the VFL allows umpires to challenge themselves and strive to be better.

The structure and coaching produces an environment where young people can reach their sporting goals.

Officiating in the VFL offers umpires exciting and demanding challenges in what is an excellent competition. The competition provides a thorough grounding for umpires aspiring to move forward with their careers.

The development of younger umpires in the TAC Cup competition is enhanced by that competition's fast, skilful and open style of football, which tests them for what lies ahead at the next level.

Umpires at state league level make up about 1 per cent of the total umpires in Victoria. These umpires have been nominated by their respective coaches at local level as the best in their respective groups, and are given the opportunity to trial for state league positions.

A group of young Tasmanian umpires is also developing, with exposure to senior VFL senior football helping their progress. AFL Tasmania, like Football Victoria, continues to recognise its responsibility to the overall development of the code, which includes financing umpire development programs.

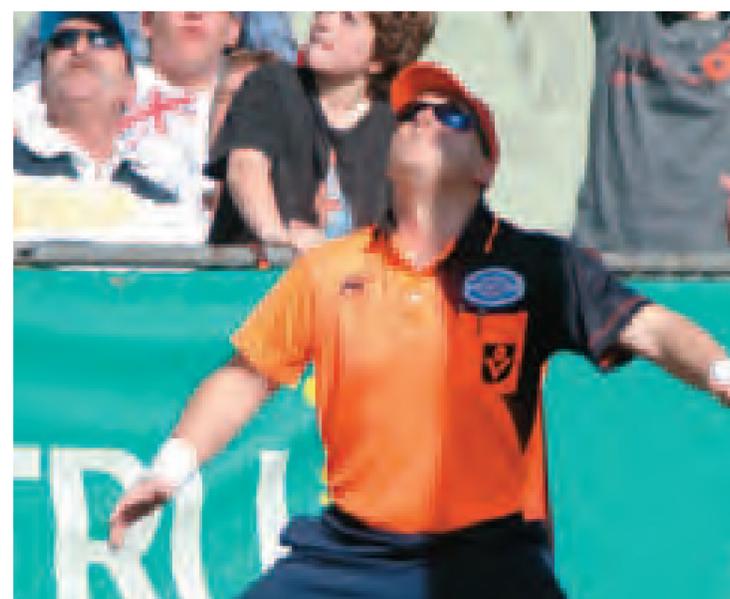
Over the past five years we have seen young umpires progress and build careers, not only locally but also in the TRUenergy VFL competition.

While umpiring standards will always attract debate, it must be remembered that like players and coaches, umpires are continually striving to produce their best.

Their form – plus preparation, fitness and knowledge of the laws – is put to the test each time they umpire, and it would be great if every decision they made was accepted as correct. However, the dynamic nature of our game almost ensures that cannot be the case. That's what makes our game so great and keeps us coming back for more each week.

Umpires watch considerable amounts of footage of their own performances in an effort to understand both their strengths and areas that need addressing. This process continues to reinforce their learning and addresses their decision making, so that a consistent approach can be made.

As we continue to explore better ways to provide coaching and feedback, not only to umpires but to VFL football in general, we need to understand that we have strong, sound and exciting competitions in both the TRUenergy VFL and the TAC Cup. They provide healthy, fresh and safe environments for umpires, players, coaches and officials, which we all embrace.





TRUenergy VFL matches have a strong community flavour.



MARKETING

Those running Australian Football have a responsibility to continually promote the game to ensure it not only maintains its position of strength, but also builds on it.

PETER HARLEY, Marketing Manager, Football Victoria



Football Victoria exists to create and maintain quality football environments that provide easy access and encourage participation in Australian Football at all levels throughout Victoria. Achieving this aim in a market where there is increased competition for a share of Victorians' entertainment, recreation and leisure time requires all involved in the code in this state to work collaboratively.

Australian Football, with its sheer size and popularity, is the envy of all other sports, and while it may not be played around the world, it is a sport we can call our own, uniquely Australian, its tradition and history reflecting our national character and making it a marketable commodity.

Those running Australian Football have a responsibility to continually promote the game to ensure it not only maintains its position of strength, but also builds on it.

Promotion of the game takes various forms, but it has the common objective of increasing participation, both male and female – including players, volunteers and spectators – from a wide spectrum, starting from AFL Auskick, through to junior, youth and senior competitions, as well as kids involved in kick-to-kick at school or kicking the footy and taking 'speckies' like their AFL heroes in the park or at home with their mates.

Football Victoria has implemented a number of programs to support community leagues and clubs. While not as glamorous as a television campaign promoting our game, these programs are essential ingredients for the continued success of Australia Football in this state.

The Quality Club Program, launched this year, is a unique program with the potential to raise the standard of our footy clubs by establishing the right environments conducive to attracting participants. This program establishes 'standards' for community football clubs.

Each club, on achieving one of the various standard 'levels', will be able to display a Quality Club insignia, which the general public will view as a seal of approval.

The potential in our market for Australian Football to attract new participants is enormous. We have seen how the new female youth football competition has snowballed in popularity, and there is a huge opportunity to involve many more participants from multicultural communities if we continue to be conscious of the importance of establishing and maintaining welcoming, safe and friendly community club environments.

Thanks to all sponsors and partners of football in this state, which make it possible for every club, league and association to survive. That Australian Football continues to grow in this state is a fitting reward to all these supporters of our great game.

Special acknowledgement goes to VicHealth, which supports development activities across the state, TRUenergy, the naming rights' partner of the TRUenergy VFL, and the TAC, which has long supported Australian Football's premier underage competition, the TAC Cup.

Football Victoria would like to thank the following partners

 	
TAC (Major TAC Cup sponsor)	CUB
TRUenergy (Major VFL sponsor)	ETU
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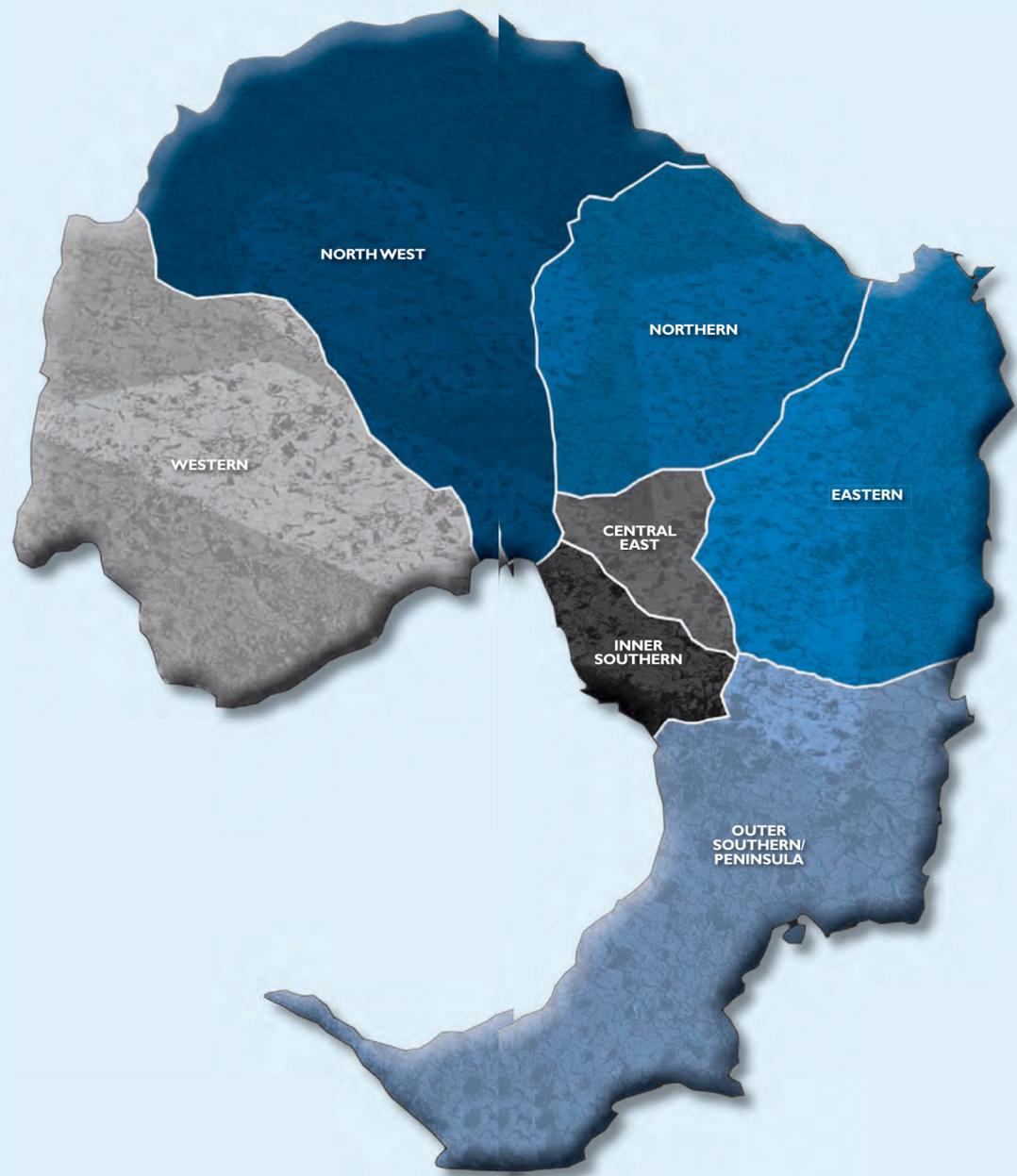
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For Metropolitan and Country Regional Development Managers, see pages 25-28.



FOOTBALL VICTORIA DEVELOPMENT

MICK DANIHER, Manager, Development and Planning, Football Victoria



OVERVIEW

Football Victoria delivers a range of development programs through its regional development manager network, the Victorian Country Football League and metropolitan leagues and associations, with assistance from the AFL.

In recent years, we have seen unprecedented growth in on-field football participation. In 2005, there were 165 new teams playing at community club level – 106 metropolitan and 59 country teams. Since 2003, 256 new teams have been established.

Since 1990, an average of 2706 players joined AFL Auskick and club football competitions each year. Since 2003, that average number increased to 2981 new players per year.

The popularity of the game is also growing among females. In 2005, 18,609 females participated in community and school competitions, up from 13,845 players in 2003.

In total, 214,364 players took part in structured match programs and competitions lasting six weeks or longer in 2005, compared to 210,297 in 2004.

Complementing participation growth are strategies developed through Football Victoria's alliance with VicHealth.

Projects implemented in partnership with VicHealth not only contribute to participation growth across all sectors, but also, importantly, they contribute to the establishment of healthy and welcoming football environments. These environments are not only conducive to attracting participants and their families to football, but contribute to the health of individuals, and consequently strengthen our communities.

Football Victoria has developed resources and training programs to assist leagues and clubs recruit, train and retain volunteers.

In 2005, a Club Resource Kit was distributed to every football club throughout the state. The kit contained a *Volunteers for Football* CD-Rom, a grants funding guide, a skills DVD, coaching lesson cards aimed at junior coaches and a development resource manual. This year, 6216 club volunteers attended training courses conducted by Football Victoria, the VCFL and metropolitan leagues.

As on-field participation grows so does the need for off-field infrastructure. Finding enough grounds, volunteers, coaches and umpires are critical issues for league and club officials.

To gain a better understanding of the issues restricting the capacity of clubs to field teams, Football Victoria's Development Advisory Board conducted a survey of all Victorian leagues and councils. The survey identified that demand for football grounds was exceeding supply, leading to overuse of grounds.

Increasingly, clubs were placing player registration limits on teams, or were prevented from establishing new teams due to ground shortages. League officials revealed that fixturing was becoming more difficult.

While school football has its own challenges to engage students, there was marginal participation growth in competitions longer than six weeks in 2005. The Melbourne Cricket Club Foundation funds the 'G Footy' program, which not only assists Football Victoria conduct school competitions, but also provides teacher coaching courses, leadership programs and educational resources.

Growing team numbers was reflected in the record 2600 attendees involved in Level 1 coaching courses, including the inaugural dual recognition accredited Level 1 course conducted in conjunction with Cricket Victoria.

Australian Football continues to grow in popularity, with junior football seen as a key component of the game's future.



AFL Auskick remains one of the most popular junior sports programs in the state.



Community club officials take part in a Club Management Training Program.

Importantly the total number of field, boundary and goal umpires increased slightly, from 4358 in 2004 to 4426 in 2005. The success of umpire recruiting strategies was reflected in the 33 per cent increase in the recruitment of field umpires, from 478 in 2004 to 638 this year.

AFL player visits to schools, clubs, AFL Auskick centres and community grounds around the state remained one of the most popular development activities. With the cooperation of AFL clubs, 9579 player appearances were conducted, compared to 8910 in 2004.

AFL AUSKICK

AFL Auskick, the first experience of football for so many youngsters, remained as popular as ever.

In 2005, a total of 45,186 children participated in the AFL Auskick program in 617 centres around Victoria. In a bid to bolster AFL Auskick many improvements were made to the online systems that provide information to hundreds of coordinators.

As expected, 2005 was extremely busy but immensely rewarding, with a raft of highlights:

A total of 9704 children played at AFL venues in Victoria this year, with 92 AFL Auskick Rules games (3680 participants) and 502 grid games (6024 participants).

Introduction of the AFL Auskick locator on the AFL website. It provided the general public with a directory of all AFL Auskick centres in Victoria by postcode, suburb or centre name. Also available was the information to register for the program.

The AFL Auskick resource distribution process, which sees delivery of AFL Auskick equipment to centre coordinators via Australia Post, again proved successful.

Junior coaching cards were distributed to all Under-12 teams in Victoria. It is planned to provide this resource to new Level One coaches in 2006.

The inaugural AFL Auskick coordinators' conference was conducted in February. It was well received with participants engaged by the speakers and the topics. This event will be conducted bi-annually.

More than 250 guests attended the AFL Auskick Simpson volunteer recognition awards at the MCG in August. Peter Bainbridge from the Dandenong region won the District Manager of the Year award and Andrew O'Kane from Hawthorn AFL Auskick centre was named Coordinator of the Year.

John Andrews from the Fountain Gate AFL Auskick centre received the AFL Auskick Coach of the Year award at the Australian Football Coaches' Association Awards.

Three special schools involved in AFL Auskick took part in a survey to identify the benefits of participating in the program. The results were sent to other special schools, resulting in three more registering for 2006.

The continuing challenge of AFL Auskick is to stay abreast of the demands and requirements of both participants and volunteers. Consequently, the focus in 2006 will be to identify these needs and develop processes and programs to ensure it remains the most popular junior sports program in Victoria.

Many thanks to Simpson for its support of AFL Auskick over the past four years. We welcome the National Australia Bank as the new major sponsor of the NAB AFL Auskick program.

COMMUNITY FOOTBALL

Support for community football is provided through Football Victoria's Community Football Unit (CFU), whose principal objective is to grow and develop the game at community level, where future growth depends on the quality of league and club environments, and their capacity to administer football at grassroots level.

The CFU is focused on providing community leagues and clubs with the support, training and resources required to fulfil their roles, enhance the overall quality of community football and encourage increased participation.

Several major initiatives were developed and implemented by the CFU to support local leagues and clubs:

CLUB MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

The Club Management Training Program covers nine key areas: financial management; football operations; committee management; risk management; volunteer management; club planning; community partnerships; sponsorship and fundraising, and junior development.

QUALITY CLUB PROGRAM

The Quality Club Program was launched in June. This program aims to benchmark standards for club administration and links all of Football Victoria's development programs.

Through this program, clubs are recognised for creating welcoming and inclusive football environments.

COMMUNITY CLUB AWARDS PROGRAM

Football Victoria, in partnership with TRUenergy, again recognised local football clubs via the Community Club

Achievement Awards, designed to reward clubs that work with their local communities and/or other community organisations.

AFL KIDS FIRST PROGRAM

This program was designed to support community leagues and clubs in guiding parents, so they and their children obtain maximum enjoyment from participation in football.

It was tested in the Western Region, Essendon District, Yarra Junior and Frankston & District Junior leagues in 2005.

Program sessions were also conducted for the Moorabbin Saints Junior Football League and other clubs across the state, with 37 presentations conducted at club level in the participating leagues by Football Victoria representatives. About 1200 parents participated in the presentations.

FOOTBALL CLUB GRANTS GUIDE

This is a guide to help community football clubs learn about the grants available and how to access this funding. It was distributed to all community football leagues and clubs.

CLUB RESOURCE KIT

The Club Resource Kit was designed to provide resources and information to support club volunteers, and enhance the safety and quality of both the on and off-field environment.

The CFU also provided support to leagues via policies, insurance programs, the Footyweb online competition management system, and a pool of investigators and club training facilitators

Victoria had a record number of registered coaches in 2005. The success of the coach education program was reflected in the fact that more than 2600 attended – an increase of 200 on 2004 – with the number of accredited coaches also increasing to 2155.

COACHING

Victoria had a record number of registered coaches in 2005. The success of the coach education program was reflected in the fact that more than 2600 attended – an increase of 200 on 2004 – with the number of accredited coaches also increasing to 2155.

Importantly, the number of accredited coaches in the Victorian Women's Football League and those involved in the VPSSA girls' competition also increased.

Innovations for 2005 included the introduction of a coaches' handbook, which accompanied a DVD distributed to all coaches of junior teams up to Under-12 level.

Football Victoria coaching programs received a resounding vote of confidence from Deakin University, which deemed it the course of choice for the delivery of teaching practicum for graduating students.

The inaugural dual recognition coaching course for junior coaches with Cricket Victoria proved to be a successful venture. It was the first of such accreditation courses in the country.

We plan to outsource some of our coaching courses in the short-term and the delivery of coaching components online is also an objective.

Football Victoria's police screening and check policy continues to be a challenge, with alterations in the light of the new Working with Children's Bill (2005). This is to be fully implemented into sport by 2011.

AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL COACHES' ASSOCIATION

With 20 regional branches, membership of the Australian Football Coaches' Association has grown to about 5000, with more than 8000 coaches nationwide receiving the members' coaching update magazine

Football Victoria introduced a series of coaching seminars with a focus on ensuring our football environments are safe and healthy. Included were motivating and entertaining presentations from former Essendon premiership captain Terry Daniher, now an assistant coach at Carlton.

An AFCA working party developed and introduced training and practice programs for kicking. The group will be replaced by a small steering committee to implement programs and resources under the brand name 'K06' in 2006.

Work on a DVD resource to assist coaches to implement training drills, games and other activities, including warm-ups, began in 2005 and will be available during 2006.

The Coach of the Year awards featuring Australian cycling coach Charlie Walsh as a guest, were a highlight. Winners were Gary Davidson (Pimpinio FC - senior), Peter Brennan (Doncaster Heights JFC - youth), Darren Troy (Newton/Chilwell FC - junior), John Andrew (Fountain Gate - AFL Auskick), Neil Connell (Northern Knights - TAC Cup) and Leeann Gill (Rowville JFC - inaugural female coach of the year).

First-year Gippsland Power coach Paul Hudson (right) was able to call on the expertise of his dad Peter, the ex-Hawthorn star.





PRIMARY SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Football Victoria focused on increased opportunity, participation and educational resources in a bid to boost interest in Australian Football among children and teachers.

AFL players spent a combined 2488 hours performing clinics and talking to primary school children.

With the support of the VPSSA, Football Victoria was able to increase interest in its girls' football program. It resulted in playing opportunities for more than 2000 girls.

Just as importantly, more than 100 primary school teachers attended Level One coaching courses to provide quality coaching.

Three junior football shows were broadcast through the Schools Television Network into primary schools across Victoria. The interactive shows used an educational theme based around Australian Football. They also provided supplementary classroom activities based on the *AFL: Our National Game* CD-Rom.

A new AFL Auskick Football Ambassador program was piloted in 45 schools across the state. The aim is for ambassadors to be a direct link with Football Victoria in the promotion of resources, activities and participation of Australian Football in primary schools.

SECONDARY SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Football Victoria's continued focus in secondary schools is to provide students and teachers with a variety of programs to ultimately increase participation.

Headlining this initiative is the 'G Footy' program, which offers coach education, school football resources, promotional activities and a role model program, with support from the Melbourne Cricket Club Foundation.

Junior Footy Show host Garry Lyon (second from left) and AFL players Drew Petrie (Kangaroos) and Essendon's Jobe Watson and Dean Rioli, featured in the Schools Television Network program.

Importantly, this program was widely endorsed, with more than 10,000 participants.

As an extension, the 'G Footy' AFL School Ambassador program was launched during the year. Its aim is to establish an alliance between secondary schools and Football Victoria to develop and promote Australian Football in the classroom and on sporting fields via the appointment of a school ambassador.

As part of Football Victoria's continued commitment to the game's development at secondary school level, each Victorian school received a resource pack. It contained footballs, a best player medallion, TRUenergy VFL passes, a clipboard and a letter outlining Football Victoria's programs.

More than 52,000 students, a mix of boys and girls, wore their school jumpers with pride in all secondary school football programs. The MCC Herald Sun Shield programs continued to provide an opportunity for students to represent their schools in a high standard and well-organised competition featuring country and metropolitan schools.

A new participation program, AFL Recreational Football, was tested in 41 schools with more than 1700 teachers and students learning this non-contact version of the game in physical education classes.

Another participation option for schools was International Rules, with many schools using this game as part of a football codes unit in their physical education program. As part of the Australia-Ireland International Rules Series, Mill Park Secondary College played Bishop Challoner College (Birmingham) in a curtain raiser.



Young indigenous footballers listen to coaches' instructions at the Qantas AFL KickStart camp.

MULTICULTURAL FOOTBALL

The Multicultural Football Program is a joint initiative of Football Victoria and the AFL, established in partnership with the Department for Victorian Communities.

It is designed to broaden both participation in, and the fan base of, Australian Football by engaging people from culturally and linguistically-diverse communities.

A multicultural unit was established to introduce Australian Football as part of settlement and integration, using the code as a vehicle to implement community building in multicultural population groups.

A further aim is to work with community leagues and clubs to embrace multicultural diversity as a way of increasing participation.

Football Victoria and the AFL are building strong working relationships with multicultural community leaders to identify barriers preventing people from participating in football, and develop strategies to encourage their involvement.

A range of resources to help local leagues and clubs broaden their capacity to diversify and expand participation is being developed.

Football Victoria recognises that Australian Football has a unique capacity to unite people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Three multicultural development officers have been appointed for 2006 to work in multicultural communities and schools to encourage participation in football.

AFL KICKSTART

Promotional visits as part of the AFL KickStart indigenous program continued to reach far and wide into indigenous communities around Victoria.

AFL KickStart representatives visited many schools, AFL Auskick centres, clubs and communities, with 5064 participants receiving information on AFL KickStart. In 2005 a new indigenous AFL Auskick centre was established in Kerang.

One of the highlights of the year was the inaugural Qantas AFL KickStart Camp held in Melbourne in August-September. The four-day camp involved 48 talented under-16 indigenous players from around Australia, including eight Victorians. The aim of the camp was to provide players with a unique AFL and educational experience.

A team of talented under-18 indigenous players was selected from AFL KickStart regional camps to play in a curtain raiser against the Clontarf Academy from Western Australia. The game was played before the Richmond-Essendon game at the MCG on July 9 as part of NAIDOC Week celebrations.

To help promote umpires, coaches and club administration courses, information was sent to various indigenous organisations, with encouraging responses.

AFL KickStart representatives held meetings with the nine Melbourne-based AFL clubs with indigenous players on their lists, encouraging the clubs to support the program in Victoria.

Fifteen indigenous AFL players helped promote the AFL KickStart and AFL Auskick programs, with numerous visits to schools, AFL Auskick centres, clubs and communities reaching more than 1800 participants.



Players from Sacre Couer College celebrate another win.

FEMALE FOOTBALL

Female participation in Australian Football exploded in Victoria during 2005.

Remarkably, there are now 18,609 girls and women playing football in organised community and school competitions throughout the state.

Consider some of the extraordinary statistics recorded in 2005, which highlight the growth of female participation:

- › A 127 per cent increase in registered players in youth girls' competition (from 122 to 278).
- › The Victorian Women's Football League also saw huge participation growth, with a 56 per cent increase in registrations (from 798 to 1248).
- › A new program this year also saw 1350 primary school girls participate in the first statewide girls' football competition.

With such an increase in interest in female football, an advisory group was expanded to include match managers from each of the youth girls' competitions and Football Victoria's female participation officer, giving the group insight into what is happening at grassroots level, and other valuable feedback.

For the first time a female-only coaching course was successfully conducted for teachers. Following positive feedback the course will be run again in 2006.

In another first, Football Victoria, in partnership with the VPSSA and the AFL, continued raising awareness and increasing skill development for female football in Victoria, with 54 primary schools and more than 1900 girls participating in a new skill development and competition program.

The program included training to Level One standard for 30 teachers, with another 24 teachers receiving training in program delivery.

Some 1350 girls participated in the competition phase of the program, with Beaumaris Primary School winning the state final played at Lexus Oval.

In 2005, a second youth girls' competition started in the western and central suburbs of Melbourne with five teams participating. The south-east competition continued to grow and now has six teams.

Significantly, funding from the 'Western Bulldogs' Forever Foundation for the next three years will ensure the continued success of the program in the west.

AFL RECREATIONAL FOOTBALL

The success of AFL Recreational Football in its initial year of operation can be measured by the number of teams participating in the new program.

In 2005, 33 teams were involved in community competitions and 47 teams took part in the Australian Corporate and State Youth Games.

Four mixed gender competition locations at Sandringham, Carlton, Coburg and Footscray provided opportunities for community participation. The program's inclusion in the Australian Corporate and State Youth Games exposed it to thousands of Victorians.

AFL Recreational Football's modified rules, including no contact, reduced playing time, smaller ground size and reduced team numbers (10 players per side), has enabled people of both genders and all ages and ability levels to participate in a fun and safe game that has strong parallels to the traditional game.



Games are played throughout the year, not only during the off-season by club players using it as a means of keeping fit and having fun at the same time, but by people who have not played footy before.

Two key areas stood out in 2005: the high participation of females and the broad range of age levels of those involved.

An additional benefit of AFL Recreational Football is that it is being used successfully as motivational tool to involve disadvantaged young people.

Throughout the year, many secondary schools expressed interest in the AFL Recreational Football concept, with the game becoming a common feature of many schools' sports education programs. A number of schools used AFL Recreational Football as a basis for house competitions because of its ability to attract broader participation.

The popularity of AFL Recreational Football is helping make Australian Football more accessible to a wide range participants. The program is expected to expand dramatically in 2006 with new venues to be established in regional Victoria.

AFL PLAYER APPEARANCES

The involvement of AFL players in promotional activities throughout Victoria is a vital component of both the AFL's and Football Victoria's grassroots development strategies.

Under the Collective Bargaining Agreement, every AFL player is committed to six half-day appearances each year for the AFL, co-ordinated by Football Victoria. In 2005, AFL players took part in 9579 appearances across Victoria, up from 8788 in 2004 and 1776 in 2003.

Richmond's Brett Deledio (above right) was one of many AFL players who took part in clinics and visits to schools across the state in 2005.

Primary schools had the option of utilising players in classroom activities, role model programs, clinics or taking the team for training. There were 2488 player appearances conducted in primary schools in 2005, compared to 2298 in 2004 and 1048 in 2003.

Secondary schools could choose players to participate in physical education lessons, leadership programs, conduct clinics or train the school football team.

Most AFL clubs reverted to allocating specific days for players to attend AFL Auskick centres. It resulted in a better system, with players making 817 appearances at AFL Auskick centres, up from 652 in 2004 and 195 in 2003.

AFL coaches selected dates for players to visit junior clubs, with 770 appearances made.

AFL Auskick participants were also invited to attend super clinics conducted during school holidays.

Each AFL club selected a day when AFL players visited country areas to conduct promotions coordinated by country development managers and supported by local clubs. Players made 3032 visits in 60 country venues, compared with 2920 in 46 areas in 2004 and 236 in eight towns in 2003.

Several AFL clubs also conducted AFL Community Camps in country areas in February.



Players and umpires confronted tough winter conditions during a game in Omeo.

UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

Just as player participation increased, so too did the growth of umpire numbers.

Further significant progress was made during 2005 in the recruitment of field, boundary and goal umpires.

The total number of umpires rose 1.6 per cent, but the most pleasing increase was a 33 per cent jump in the recruitment of field umpires. A 17 per cent increase in female umpires was most encouraging.



Umpires involved in the mentoring program wear distinctive green uniforms.

While those numbers provide a great foundation, the challenge to recruit, train and retain enough quality umpires to meet the demands of growing team numbers is ongoing.

In conjunction with the Victorian Country Football League and metropolitan football leagues and associations, Football Victoria has two full-time umpiring development managers to provide support and conduct development programs to umpiring groups.

The development managers also made available the basic umpiring course for teachers and students at secondary schools.

More than 40 umpire coaches also attended the Level 1 umpire coach accreditation course.

A highlight of the year was the continued success of the umpire mentor program, which provided a support framework and resources for beginner umpires making the transition from boundary to field umpiring, and new field, boundary and goal umpires.

An experienced umpire was appointed as a mentor to guide, train and support each learning umpire.

Learning umpires wore distinctive green shirts to alert everyone of their status and remind players and officials that the new umpire was taking part in an induction and was a "no go" for criticism. Some 72 mentors and 240 learning umpires participated in the program.

FOOTBALL VICTORIA DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD



David Doherty (Chairman)
Director, Football Victoria
See page 9 for profile



Ken Gannon
CEO, Football Victoria
See page 9 for profile



Sarah Foott
Learning and Development Manager, KPMG
Has worked extensively in the sports industry with the AFL, Cricket Australia and Tennis Australia, specialising in talented athlete welfare. Has worked in coach education, business development and human resource management.



Professor Mark Hargreaves
Department of Physiology, University of Melbourne
Has an impressive academic background in sports science and a strong commitment to community and school sport.



Grant Hehir
Secretary, Department of Education and Training
Responsibilities encompass schools, TAFE institutions, registered training organisations, adult and community education providers, and adult education and higher education institutions.



Ray Horsburgh
Managing Director and CEO, Smorgon Steel Group
Instrumental in the establishment of Westbourne Football Club and Westbourne Junior Football Club. Deputy chairman of Essendon Football Club.



Simon Overland
Assistant Commissioner Crime, Victoria Police
Highly credentialed and respected player in the ACT Football League. Strong advocate for the role football plays in binding communities together and developing good citizens.



Dr Frank Pyke
CEO, Victorian Institute of Sport
Strong advocate for football participation at all levels and has extensive sporting connections with the Australian Sports Commission and international, national and state sporting bodies.



Dawn Wilcock
Business Development Manager, Triform Enterprises
Great advocate for female participation in sport, particularly football, and works across various government sporting agencies and sporting associations, including Sports Recreation Victoria. Involved with junior football in the Dandenong District Junior Football League.

FOOTBALL VICTORIA AWARDS

COMMUNITY CLUB RECOGNITION AWARDS

The program recognises local community football clubs for their efforts in developing healthy and welcoming club environments.

COMMUNITY CLUBS OF THE MONTH

- April – Mossgiel Park Junior Football Club
- May – Warrandyte Football Club
- June – Golden Square Football Netball Club
- July – Redan Football Netball Club
- August – Grovedale Football Netball Club

FOOTBALL VICTORIA/VICHEALTH COMMUNITY CLUB OF THE YEAR:

Grovedale Football Netball Club, Geelong Football League

In a first for the Geelong region, a multi-way partnership between the local council, Victorian Education Department, local schools, and a range of sporting groups anchored by the Grovedale Tigers turned the club's home into a widely-shared community, sporting and recreation precinct. The facilities are used daily by local schools, formal and informal sporting clubs, and local residents.

From its original football club base, Grovedale has developed one of the largest netball programs in the Geelong region. Junior football numbers have increased each year, and the club is proud to be one of only four local FIDA teams supporting football opportunities for players of all abilities.

The Tigers continue to reach broadly into the community with a variety of innovative approaches to encourage wider participation. These include the 'Active-for-Life' program encouraging community members who no longer play competitive sport to keep healthy.

In 2004, the Tigers were recognised with the Victorian Government's 'User-Friendly Club' award.

"We aim to support as many community groups as possible in our region, not just football and netball but for those who may have disabilities, our people in aged care, local schools and other community groups," president Reece Chadwick said.

"By sharing our time and facilities, we are giving something to our community that has far reaching benefits for all involved."

AFL MERIT AWARD:

- David McWilliams, Essendon District Football League
- Alan Hales, Western Jets Football Club

NEW CLUB AWARD:

- Yarra Valley Cougars, Victorian Women's Football League

CHAMPION TEAMS:

- Gol Gol Hawks Football Club, Millewa Football League
- Altona Football Club, Western Region Football League
- Nathalia Football Club, Murray Football League

UMPIRING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

- Kevin Smith, Eastern Football League

CLUB ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

- Glen Waverley Hawks, Eastern Football League
- Avondale Heights Football Club, Essendon District Football League

AFL AUSKICK/JUNIOR CLUB LINKAGE AWARD:

- Park Orchards AFL Auskick/Park Orchards North Ringwood Parish Junior Football Club, Eastern Region, Yarra Junior Football League

SPECIAL AWARD AFL AUSKICK/JUNIOR CLUB LINKAGE:

- Norwood AFL Auskick/Norwood Junior Football Club, Eastern Region, Eastern Football League

LEAGUE INITIATIVES AWARD:

- Eastern Football League – Development of skill-specific computer training courses
- Western Region Football League – Club Development Manager Program



TRUenergy VFL RESULTS



TAC CUP RESULTS



SENIORS

Grand Final
Sandringham 11.17 (83) d Werribee 11.8 (74)

Norm Goss Medal
(best player in Grand Final)
Daniel Ward (Sandringham)

Umpires
Field: Damien Sully, Jason Armstrong, Michael Jennings **Boundary:** Gerard Large, Ian Burrows, Mitchell Lefevre **Goal:** Michael Hammond, Bradley Letson

J. J. Liston Trophy (best and fairest)
Ian Callinan (Tasmania) and Paul Johnson (Sandringham)

Forthergill-Round Medal
(most promising young player)
Jackson Barling (Williamstown)

Jim 'Frosty' Miller Medal
(leading goalkicker)
James Podsiadly (Werribee, 66 goals)

RESERVES

Grand Final
Williamstown 16.7 (103) d North Ballarat 12.9 (81)

Fred Hill Memorial Medal
(best player in Grand Final)
Nick McArdle (Williamstown)

Umpires
Field: Dan Beard, Robert Findlay, Cameron Nash **Boundary:** David Lambourn, Neil Woods, Alan McLean **Goal:** Peter Balding, Dean Jones

A. Todd Medal
(best and fairest)
Stephen Dinnell (North Ballarat)

Final Ladder	P	W	L	D	F	A	%	Pts
Werribee	18	15	3	0	2138	1590	134.47	60
Northern Bullants	18	13	4	1	1690	1343	125.84	54
Sandringham	18	12	6	0	1793	1558	115.08	48
Bendigo Bombers	18	11	7	0	1816	1357	133.82	44
Port Melbourne	18	11	7	0	1747	1725	101.28	44
Tasmania	18	10	8	0	1724	1615	106.75	40
Frankston	18	8	9	1	1486	1440	103.19	34
Box Hill Hawks	18	7	11	0	1479	1632	90.63	28
Williamstown	18	7	11	0	1474	1713	86.05	28
North Ballarat	18	7	11	0	1434	1756	81.66	28
Scorpions	18	6	12	0	1480	1565	94.57	24
Coburg Tigers	18	5	13	0	1404	1774	79.14	20
Geelong	18	4	14	0	1478	2075	71.23	16

TRUenergy VFL Team of the Year Coach: Simon Atkins (Werribee)

B:	Michael Ablett (Frankston)	Mathew Jovanovic (Tasmania)	Chad Liddell (c) (Sandringham)
HB:	Jordan Doering (Bendigo Bombers)	Rod Crowe (Sandringham)	Justin McConnell (North Ballarat)
C:	Ken Hall (Tasmania)	Steve Harrison (Scorpions)	Ben Atkin (Tasmania)
HF:	Ben Beams (Tasmania)	Clinton Alleway (Box Hill Hawks)	Justin Berry (Frankston)
F:	Jeremy Dukes (Williamstown)	James Podsiadly (Werribee)	Salim Hassan (Werribee)
R:	Michael Rix (Coburg Tigers)	Sean O'Keeffe (Sandringham)	Ian Callinan (Tasmania)
I/C:	Josh Gibson (Port Melbourne)	Travis Robertson (Werribee)	
	Justin Crow (Northern Bullants)	James Byrne (Geelong)	

Grand Final

Gippsland Power 12.9 (81) d Dandenong Stingrays 10.6 (66)

TAC Medal
(best player in Grand Final)
Dale Thomas (Gippsland Power)

Umpires
Field: Andrew Mitchell, Matthew Brown, Brent Pawley **Boundary:** Michael Marantelli, Nick Liparota, Peter Ashmore **Goal:** Darren Mills, Edward Malpas

Morrish Medal
(best and fairest)
Fortunato Caruso (Calder Cannons)

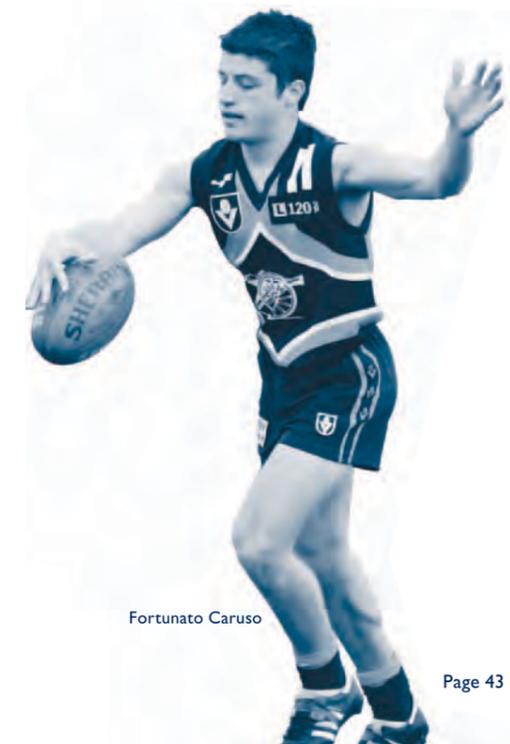
TAC Coaches' Award
Richard Douglas (Calder Cannons)

Leading Goalkicker
Ben McKinley (Northern Knights, 59 goals)

TAC Cup Team of the Year

B:	Alipate Carlile (Murray)	Brad Kelleher (Eastern)	James Wall (Calder)
HB:	Tim Looby (Murray)	Marcus Drum (Murray)	Richard Douglas (Calder)
C:	Chris Dunne (Gippsland)	Nathan Jones (Dandenong)	Dale Thomas (Gippsland)
HF:	Leigh Adams (Eastern)	Jacob McGuane (Geelong)	Joel Selwood (Bendigo)
F:	Bill Driscoll (North Ballarat)	Ben McKinley (Northern)	Beau Dowler (Oakleigh)
R:	Robert Warnock (Sandringham)	Marc Murphy (Oakleigh)	Ricky Delphine (Gippsland)
I/C:	Ryan Jackson (Northern)	Steve Clifton (North Ballarat)	
	Daniel Nicholls (Dandenong)	Shaun Higgins (Geelong)	

Final Ladder	P	W	L	D	F	A	%	Pts
Gippsland Power	18	14	4	0	1967	1266	155.37	56
North Ballarat Rebels	18	13	5	0	1738	1457	119.29	52
Dandenong Stingrays	18	12	6	0	1733	1357	127.71	48
Calder Cannons	18	12	6	0	1784	1398	127.61	48
Eastern Ranges	18	11	7	0	1806	1450	124.55	44
Murray Bushrangers	18	11	7	0	1617	1365	118.46	44
Northern Knights	18	10	8	0	1594	1450	109.93	40
Geelong Falcons	18	10	8	0	1734	1597	108.58	40
Sandringham Dragons	18	8	10	0	1381	1618	85.35	32
Oakleigh Chargers	18	6	12	0	1383	1831	75.53	24
Western Jets	18	3	15	0	1328	2054	64.65	12
Bendigo Pioneers	18	0	18	0	1055	2081	50.70	0





NAB AFL UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIPS

South Australia 14.8 (92) d Victoria Country 5.11 (41)
 Victoria Metro 13.10 (88) d Western Australia 9.7 (61)
 Victoria Metro 12.13 (85) d Victoria Country 7.5 (47)
 Victoria Metro 14.4 (88) d South Australia 9.11 (65)
 Western Australia 13.9 (87) d Victoria Country 6.10 (46)
Champions (Div 1) – Victoria Metro

NAB AFL UNDER-18

ALL-AUSTRALIAN PLAYERS

Marc Murphy	Oakleigh Chargers
Nathan Jones	Dandenong Stingrays
Ben McKinley	Northern Knights
Beau Dowler	Oakleigh Chargers
Xavier Ellis	Gippsland Power
Dale Thomas	Gippsland Power
Joel Selwood	Bendigo Pioneers

NAB AFL UNDER-16 CHAMPIONSHIPS

South Australia 24.22 (166) d Victoria Country 10.7 (67)
 Western Australia 9.15 (69) d Victoria Metro 9.11 (65)
 Victoria Country 11.7 (73) d Western Australia 6.13 (49)
 Victoria Metro 10.7 (67) d South Australia 5.16 (46)
 Victoria Metro 16.13 (109) d Victoria Country 8.7 (55)
Champions (Div 1) – Victoria Metro

AIS-AFL ACADEMY MEMBERS

Ben McEvoy	Murray Bushrangers
Ryan Normington	Murray Bushrangers
Ben Reid	Murray Bushrangers
Tim Houlihan	North Ballarat Rebels
Andrejs Everitt	Dandenong Stingrays
Jarrad Grant	Dandenong Stingrays
Matthew Kreuzer	Northern Knights
Alex Lee	Dandenong Stingrays



Healthy crowds attended Victorian football matches in 2005.

COUNTRY FOOTBALL

WorkSafe Victorian Country Football League Grand Finals

Alberton FL Wonthaggi Power 15.8 (98) d Fish Creek 11.11 (77)	Geelong FL South Barwon 17.13 (115) d Newtown & Chilwell 14.10(94)
Ballarat FL Melton 16.19 (115) d Sunbury 12.12 (84)	Golden Rivers FL Murrabit 12.7 (79) d Wandella 9.7 (61)
Bellarine FL Newcomb 15.18 (108) d Torquay 11.9 (75)	Goulburn Valley FL Seymour 10.13 (73) d Euroa 9.8 (62)
Benalla & District FNL Devenish 13.15 (93) d Goorambat 8.10 (58)	Hampden FNL Terang-Mortlake 12.11 (83) d Port Fairy 9.8 (62)
Bendigo FL Gisborne 14.17 (101) d Eaglehawk 10.10 (70)	Heathcote District FL Mount Pleasant 16.14 (110) d White Hills 12.15 (87)
Central Goulburn FL Yea 9.12 (66) d Rumbalara 8.9 (57)	Horsham District FL Pimpinio 15.7 (97) d Laharum 8.13 (61)
Central Highlands FL Hepburn 13.12 (90) d Clunes 12.6 (78)	Kyabram District FL Tallygaroopna 9.9 (63) d Stanhope 9.8 (62)
Central Murray FL Swan Hill 16.13 (109) d Balranald 6.10 (46)	Lexton Plains FL Skipton 22.18 (150) d Carngham-Linton 9.9 (63)
Colac & District FNL Forrest 3.5 (23) d Alvie 2.4 (16)	Loddon Valley FL Calivil United 21.11 (137) d Bears Lagoon-Serpentine 16.12 (108)
East Gippsland FL Wy Yung 16.14 (110) d Bairnsdale 7.14 (56)	Mallee FL Beulah 17.7 (109) d Woomelang-Lascelles 10.8 (68)
Ellinbank & District FL Catani 17.13 (115) d Nyora 14.10 (94)	Maryborough Castlemaine District FL Carisbrook 13.16 (94) d Maryborough Rovers 4.6 (30)
Geelong & District FL Thomson 22.16 (148) d Corio 10.12 (72)	Mid Gippsland FL Morwell East 11.5 (71) d Yinnar 6.8 (44)

Millewa Gol Gol 20.15 (135) d Meringur 4.8 (32)	Mininera & District FL Wickliffe-Lake Bolac 10.12 (72) d Tatyoan 9.8 (62)	Mornington Peninsula Nepean FL (Peninsula Div) Mount Eliza 27.17 (179) d Frankston YCW 7.5 (47)	Picola & District FNL Waaia 12.13 (85) d Tungamah 9.12 (66)
(Casey Cardinia Div) Doveton 6.8 (44) d Narre Warren 5.7 (37)	(Nepean Div) Langwarrin 13.9 (87) d Frankston Bombers 11.14 (80)	Murray FL Nathalia 11.11 (77) d Tocumwal 3.6 (24)	South West District FNL Coleraine 10.12 (72) d Tyrendarra 4.6 (30)
North Central FL Charlton 13.11 (89) d Wycheproof-Narraport 8.7 (55)	North Gippsland FNL Heyfield 24.10 (154) d Cowwarr 10.9 (69)	Omeo & District FL Buchan 18.12 (120) d Omeo 14.13 (97)	Sunraysia FL Imperials 10.12 (72) d Irymple 10.11 (71)
Ovens & King FL Moyhu 15.8 (98) d Whorouly 12.16 (88)	Ovens & Murray FL Lavington 10.12 (72) d Myrtleford 11.5 (71)	Upper Murray FL Corryong 15.11 (101) d Federal 7.6 (48)	Tallangatta & District FNL Mitta United 11.15 (81) d Dederang Mt Beauty 6.8 (44)
Warrnambool & District FNL Russell's Creek 19.13 (127) d Old Collegians 14.12 (96)	West Gippsland Latrobe FL Traralgon 10.8 (68) d Maffra 6.9 (45)	Wimmera FL Horsham 18.10 (118) d Dimboola 12.15 (87)	Warrnambool & District FNL Russell's Creek 19.13 (127) d Old Collegians 14.12 (96)
Yarra Valley Mountain District FL (Div 1) Monbulk 5.13 (43) d Silvan 1.9 (15)	(Div 2) Olinda-Ferny Creek 18.17 (125) d South Belgrave 11.5 (71)	Western Border FL South Gambier 17.12 (114) d East Gambier 7.7 (49)	Warrnambool & District FNL Russell's Creek 19.13 (127) d Old Collegians 14.12 (96)

WORKSAFE COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS POOL CHAMPIONS

A Goulburn Valley
 B West Gippsland Latrobe
 C Bellarine
 D Murray

David Code Medal

(best player for VCFL v VAFA)
 Brad Murray (Myrtleford FC, Ovens & Murray FL)

METROPOLITAN FOOTBALL GRAND FINALS

DIAMOND VALLEY FL (Div 1) North Heidelberg 10.10 (70) d Heidelberg 7.10 (52)	RIDDELL DISTRICT FL Riddell 17.12 (114) d Romsey 9.9 (63)	(B Section) Old Ivanhoe 9.4 (58) d De La Salle 5.11 (41)	VICTORIAN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE
(Div 2) Diamond Creek 12.4 (76) d Greensborough 9.15 (69)	SOUTHERN FL (Div 1) Balwyn 10.15 (75) d East Brighton 3.11 (29)	(C Section) University Blacks 20.12 (132) d Beaumaris 8.5 (53)	(Div 1) Melbourne Uni 11.12 (78) d Darebin 4.3 (27)
EASTERN FL (Div 1) Vermont 5.7 (37) d Donvale 4.4 (28)	(Div 2) St Kilda City 10.4 (64) d T/Malvern 9.7 (61)	(D1 Section) Fitzroy Reds 24.6 (150) d Ormond 10.11 (71)	(Div 2) Lalor 4.7 (31) d Berwick 3.6 (24)
(Div 2) Ringwood 17.14 (116) d Rowville 14.12 (96)	(Div 3) Moorabbin Kangaroos 20.6 (126) d North Kew 9.8 (62)	(D2 Section) Old Geelong 9.17 (71) d Rupertswood 6.14 (50)	(Div 3) Diamond Creek 11.6 (72) d North Heidelberg 3.7 (25)
(Div 3) Bayswater 8.12 (60) d Doncaster East 7.13 (55)	WESTERN REGION FL (Div 1) Port Melbourne Colts 12.16 (88) d Parkside 6.7 (43)	(D3 Section) St John's 11.10 (76) d Werribee 8.11 (59)	
(Div 4) Waverley Blues 14.7 (91) d the Basin 12.12 (84)	(Div 2) Altona 19.12 (126) d Glenorden 8.9 (57)	(D4 Section) Elsternwick 17.16 (118) d St Mary's 15.13 (103)	
ESSENDON DISTRICT FL (Div 1) Strathmore 16.14 (110) d Greenvale 15.10 (100)	VICTORIAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION	(Club XVIII 1) St Kevins OB 9.8 (62) d Old Xaverians (1) 8.10 (58)	
(Div 2) Craigieburn 11.14 (80) d West Coburg 10.12 (72)	(A Section) Old Xavs 13.7 (85) d Uni Blues 11.10 (76)	(Club XVIII 2) Old Xaverians (2) 9.11 (65) d Old Essendon 8.5 (53)	
		(Club XVIII South) Whitefriars 14.12 (96) d Caulfield Grammar 12.5 (77)	



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

STEPHEN SMITH, Financial Controller, Football Victoria



Torquay's Steve Baranski takes a screamer during a Bellarine Football League match.

One of Football Victoria's core responsibilities is to ensure fair and balanced use for the game of income received from the AFL and other revenue generation areas.

Football Victoria acknowledges the AFL's significant contribution to football in this state, a contribution not always obvious to the general public. The AFL is Football Victoria's single biggest source of income through grants and transfer fees, contributing almost \$9 million or 60 per cent of the total income received.

The regular increases in AFL funding will never be sufficient to meet Victorian football's future needs, so it will become increasingly more important for Football Victoria to boost the percentage share of other revenue areas, with the aim of becoming less reliant on AFL funding.

Football Victoria needs to extend its existing relationships and alliances with organisations such as VicHealth, the TAC and TRUenergy, while also seeking out new partners in the sponsorship and fundraising areas, which currently account for 17 per cent of total revenue.

A current trend in the sports world is for sponsors to centralise their funding arrangements, while seeking state sporting associations or national bodies to represent their interests. That is certainly the case in the football industry.

While this trend provides opportunities for all involved, this type of sponsorship funding also requires Football Victoria's members to collectively work together to secure and retain funding partnerships.

Self-funding activities currently account for 19 per cent of revenue generation and will also need to increase. Those managing programs such as NAB AFL Auskick will look for increased revenue through continued growth, not necessarily increased fees. Training and development

programs involving a 'user pays' approach need to become growth areas, enabling Football Victoria to retrieve a proportion of the costs involved in running those programs.

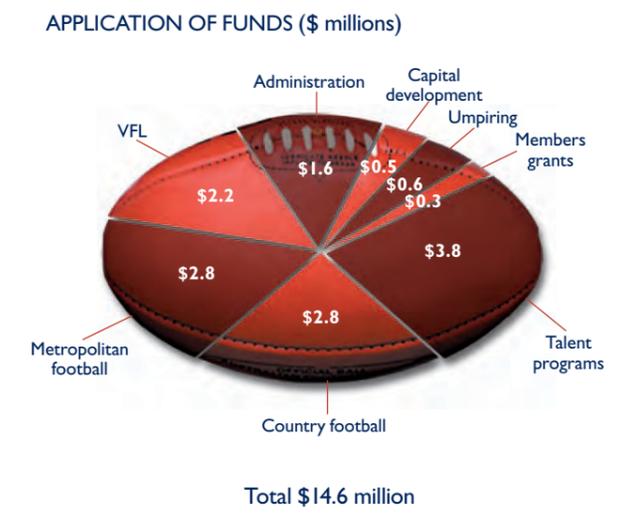
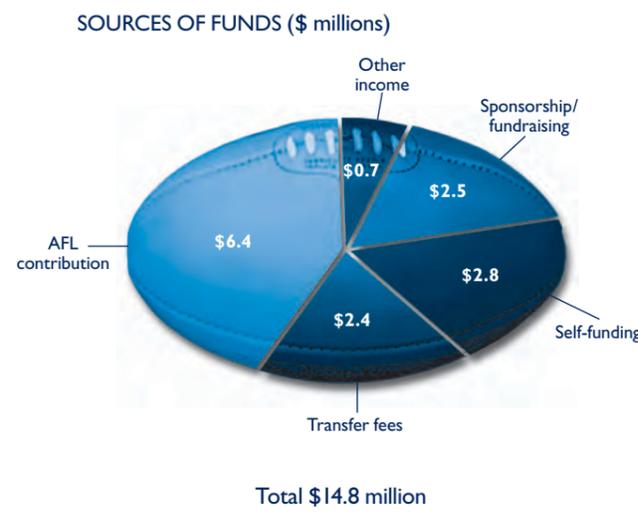
With more than 1200 clubs, 100 leagues and associations and Football Victoria's statewide operations supporting football in this state, the funding allocation requires prudent management to ensure both fairness, and above all, outcomes that are in the best interests of Victorian football as a whole.

Community football across the state receives almost \$6 million or 40 per cent of total funding, while the state league receives 15 per cent, most of which is self-funded through sponsorship.

Some 26 per cent of total funding is allocated to talent development, an area responsible for generating much of Victoria's AFL funding.

Football Victoria contained its administration costs at 10.9 per cent of total funding, remaining the lowest of all states in Australia in this area.

Finally, what often goes unseen is Football Victoria's ongoing capital expenditure on infrastructure. In 2005 Football Victoria invested in the development of Casey Fields in Melbourne's outer south-east, not only providing VFL club Casey Scorpions with a new home base, but providing state-of-the-art sporting facilities for one of Victoria's fastest growing residential areas.





GRADUATES TO THE AFL

PERMANENT ROOKIE UPGRADES PRIOR TO THE 2005 NAB AFL DRAFT

PLAYER	PREVIOUS CLUBS	AFL CLUB
Dale Morris	Werribee	Western Bulldogs
David Fanning	Aberfeldie	Collingwood
Ryan Crowley	Calder Cannons/Gisborne	Fremantle
Luke Vogels	Terang-Mortlake	Sydney
Clinton Young	North Ballarat Rebels/Minyip-Murtoa	Hawthorn
Will Thursfield	Sandringham Dragons/Ormond	Richmond
Ben Davies	Western Jets/Williamstown Juniors	Collingwood
Andrew Lovett	Northern Knights/Preston RSL	Essendon
Nathan Lovett-Murray	Williamstown/Bendigo Bombers	Essendon
Nathan Foley	Geelong Falcons/Colac	Richmond

2005 NAB AFL DRAFT SELECTIONS

PICK	PLAYER	PREVIOUS CLUBS	AFL CLUB
1	Marc Murphy	Oakleigh Chargers/Doncaster	Carlton
2	Dale Thomas	Gippsland Power/Drouin	Collingwood
3	Xavier Ellis	Gippsland Power/Lake Entrance	Hawthorn
5	Scott Pendlebury	Gippsland Power/Sale	Collingwood
6	Beau Dowler	Oakleigh Chargers/Noble Park	Hawthorn
10	Marcus Drum	Murray Bushrangers/Congupna	Fremantle
11	Shaun Higgins	Geelong Falcons/Newtown	Western Bulldogs
12	Nathan Jones	Dandenong Stingrays/Mt Eliza	Melbourne
16	Richard Douglas	Calder Cannons/Broadford	Adelaide
21	Danny Stanley	Geelong Falcons/Ocean Grove	Collingwood
22	Beau Muston	Murray Bushrangers/Shepparton United	Hawthorn
23	Ryan Cook	Dandenong Stingrays/Rosebud	Collingwood
29	Ben McKinley	Northern Knights/Old Ivanhoe Grammarians	West Coast
31	Trent West	Gippsland Power/Wonthaggi	Geelong
34	Matthew Spangher	Eastern Ranges/Xavier College	West Coast
35	Stephen Owen	North Ballarat Rebels/North Ballarat JFC	Geelong
36	Jake Edwards	Western Jets/Melton	Carlton
37	John Anthony	Northern Knights/Diamond Creek	Collingwood
38	Travis Tuck	Dandenong Stingrays/Berwick	Hawthorn
39	Jay Neagle	Gippsland Power/Traralgon	Essendon
42	Robert Warnock	Sandringham Dragons/Old Brighton	Fremantle
44	Alipate Carlile	Murray Bushrangers/Wangaratta Rovers	Port Adelaide
46	Travis Baird	Brisbane Lions/Bendigo Pioneers	Western Bulldogs
49	Michael Rix	Coburg Tigers/Hawthorn/Box Hill Hawks	St Kilda
51	Matthew Laidlaw	Oakleigh Chargers/Carey Grammar	Sydney
53	Simon Buckley	Sandringham Dragons/St Paul's	Melbourne
60	Clint Bartram	Geelong Falcons/Ocean Grove	Melbourne
71	Justin Sweeney	Tyabb	St Kilda

2006 NAB AFL PRE-SEASON DRAFT SELECTIONS

PICK	PLAYER	PREVIOUS CLUBS	AFL CLUB
2	Sam Iles	Tasmania Devils	Collingwood
5	Matthew White	Calder Cannons/Sunbury	Richmond
8	Matt Thomas	Sandringham Dragons/Old Melburnians	Port Adelaide

Marc Murphy, who played for the Oakleigh Chargers in the TAC Cup and also captained the successful Vic Metro team, was selected first overall by Carlton at the 2005 NAB AFL Draft.



FOOTBALL VICTORIA PEOPLE

As at December, 2005

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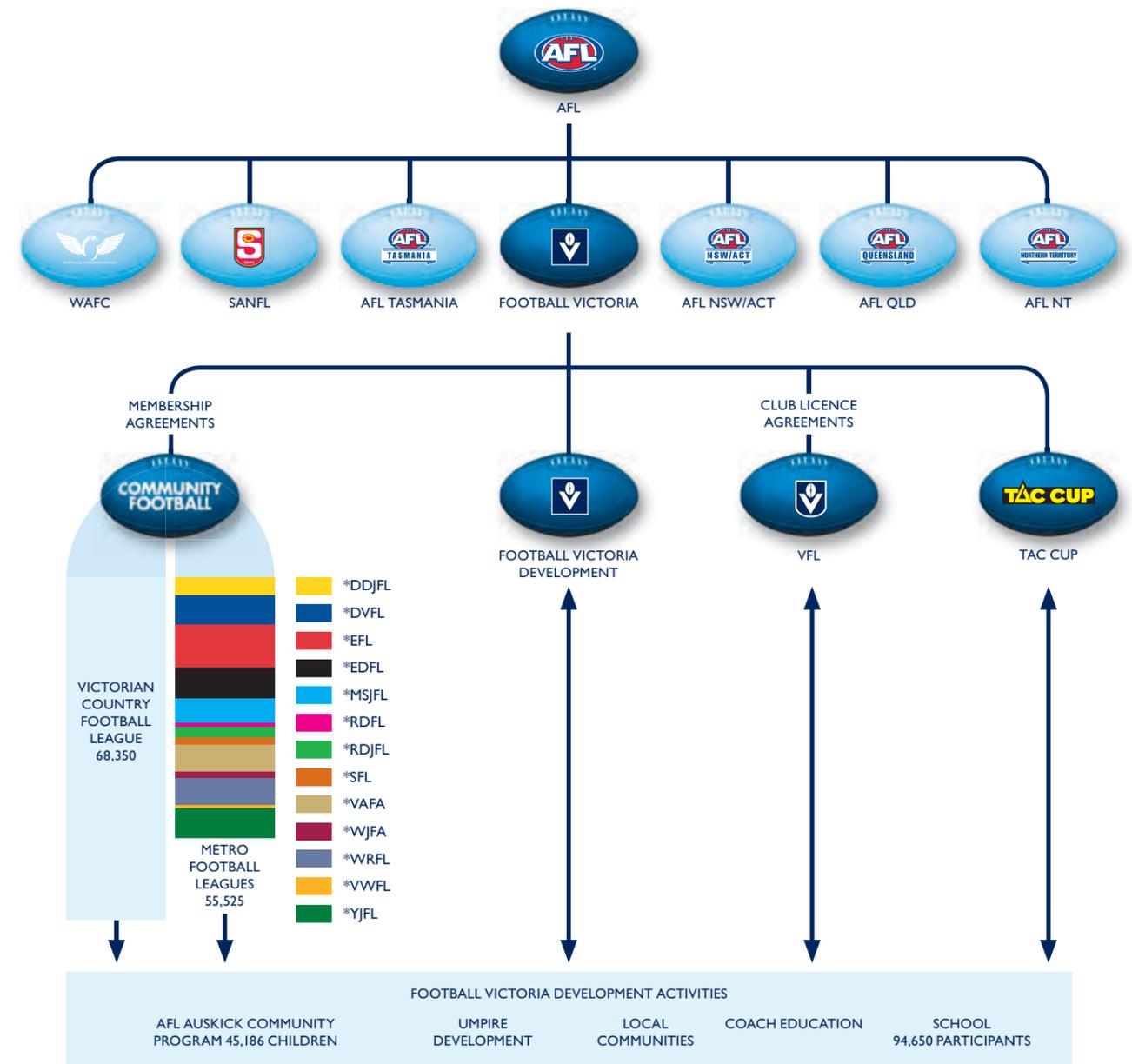
for Football Victoria

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STRUCTURE OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL



* DDJFL – Dandenong & District Junior Football League
 DVFL – Diamond Valley Football League
 EFL – Eastern Football League
 EDFL – Essendon District Football League
 MSJFL – Moorabbin Saints Junior Football League

RDJFL – Riddell District Football League
 SFL – Southern Football League
 VAFA – Victorian Amateur Football Association
 WJFA – Waverley Junior Football Association

WRFL – Western Region Football League
 VWFL – Victorian Women's Football League
 YJFL – Yarra Junior Football League



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