



**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
&  
FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS**

**SEASON 2008**



VICTORIAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION  
UMPIRES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**&**

# **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**SEASON 2008**

To be presented to the Members at the Annual General Meeting on 30th April,  
2009 at 7.30pm, Elsternwick Park, Glenhuntly Road, Elsternwick

## **2008 OFFICE BEARERS**

PRESIDENT	Rob Mayston
VICE PRESIDENT	Rob Sneddon
PAST PRESIDENT	Anthony Damen
SECRETARY	Alan Stubbs
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Craig Brajtberg
TREASURER	Paul Jones
ASSISTANT TREASURER	Patrick Coulthard
SOCIAL SECRETARY	Albie Firley
BUILDING MANAGER	Vin Vescovi
VAFUA DELEGATE	Vin Vescovi
VAFUA PROPERTY STEWARD	Vin Vescovi
AUDITOR	David Hindle & Associates

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The news to kickoff Season 2008 was that the Vafa had decided not to proceed with the proposed Elsternwick Park redevelopment, for which the draft plan had included the current VafaUA clubrooms ( refer 2007 Annual Report ). Instead the Vafa had decided to explore relocating their headquarters to the soon to be redeveloped Olympic Park. For the VafaUA this change of direction meant it would be “business as usual” at Elsternwick Park – for the foreseeable future at least - and that it was time to get busy and tidy up and do a basic renovation of the Clubrooms which perhaps might have been feeling a bit neglected beforehand. Several loads of rubbish were carted off to the tip, running repairs were effected in several areas and in two working bees involving VafaUA Executive and other members the rooms were painted from one end to the other. This was deemed to be Stage 1 of sprucing things up with Stage 2 to include some further enhancements to happen in the next budget year 2009. A structural assessment of the clubrooms was also conducted following several cracks appearing in a couple of areas, believed to be caused by the ground drying out following several years of drought type conditions. The findings were comforting in that no structural issues of consequence were identified with ongoing monitoring only required of the affected areas. This was good news as there had been concern that we may have been up for significant costs if problems had been identified. Several minor items which are more discretionary in nature were highlighted which will be for future consideration as to if / when they are actioned.

The Annual Meeting was held in early April and normally this is an event that doesn't attract much notice. However this time there was something noteworthy in the form of VafaUA members voting on a proposal, where in addition to the existing criteria for Life Membership ( which would remain unchanged ), a person would also be eligible for Life Membership if they had been a member of the VafaUA for 20 years. In the discussion beforehand about this, one question that was asked was whether this change would be a good one or not ? In 2008 six members qualified for Life membership under this new criteria – Bob Seymour, David D'Altera, Alan Stubbs, Michael Forde, Mick Gilday and Ron Martyn. I think the calibre of these recipients is endorsement of the decision by VafaUA members to vote in favour of this change to the VafaUA constitution.

The start of the season heralded a new initiative in the form of umpires' appointments being available on the Vafa website. This had been talked about for several years and in the end when it was introduced most there was general surprise at how smoothly it went and how quickly most umpires adjusted to this new approach. And apart from the occasional IT glitch this has definitely been another good step forward in streamlining the management of umpiring.

During each season VafaUA members 'shine' in all sorts of ways – both on and off the football field – and 2008 was no exception. Some notable achievements were :-

- Wayne ( “Chuck” ) Hinton chalking up 500 Vafa games and still going strong...could it be that he now has 1000 in his sights ?
- Albie Firley being chosen to represent Australia at the World Triathlon Championships in Vancouver, Canada.

- Tim Sutcliffe being appointed as the Australian Umpire for the Australian Amateurs International Rules tour of Ireland where the Australian team went through undefeated. Tim's feedback on the tour was glowing and I think all would agree with his words before he left that something like this is a "once in a lifetime experience". And in Tim's case it is worth reflecting that if you do manage to perform consistently well at the highest level then opportunities can come your way.

A mid-season surprise came when Brian ( "Benny" ) Goodman announced to the Umpiring Group that he would be stepping down from the Umpires' Coach role at the end of Season 2008 citing the need for change to occur in this position at regular intervals to ensure umpiring in the VFAFA keeps moving forward. In response, at the May VFAFAUA meeting, members unanimously supported a formal acknowledgement of the outstanding contribution he has made in this role. When introducing this to the meeting I highlighted Benny's pivotal role in the development of umpiring in the VFAFA over recent years both in terms of the recruiting and managing of a larger umpires group and the improved environment in which to umpire. We wish Brad Lowe all the best as he takes over the Umpires Coach role.

The social trend of recent years of 'quality not quantity' continued with all events that were held well supported. One extra event held in 2008 was our own "after match" early season as part of the celebration of 150 Years of Australian Rules Football, where the bar prices must have been close to those of 150 years ago. Refer to the Social Report for details of all Social events held. The "big news" of the Year though was a new venue and format for the annual Pre-Finals Dinner. After evaluating a number of options the MCG Members Dining Room was the unanimous choice of the VFAFAUA Executive. In a further development the Executive decided to open the night up to wives, partners and friends of VFAFAUA members. This idea had been canvassed previously but the former venue did not have the capacity for this. As all who attended that night would agree the evening turned out to be a raging success with the numbers attending up from 200 to around 250. Opening the VFAFAUA's "night of nights" up to those mentioned above has been a positive step and this event has the potential to grow even further to 300 and beyond. Rather than just a Pre-Finals Dinner the evening is more a celebration of what the VFAFAUA does and what we stand for. Well done to AD with assistance from Robbo to make the change of dinner venue seamless and for the great organization which set the night up to be the success that it was.

The VFAFAUA is also proud of the fact that it isn't just about umpiring but that under the banner of the recently established VFAFAUA Community Programs initiated by Tim Sutcliffe, we continue to actively support a number of community programs and charities. These include the Sacred Heart Mission, Royal Childrens Hospital, Elise Sneddon Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis, the Football Integration Development Association and the Red Cross Bloodbank. A touching moment for me was when Brendan Corcoran arranged for Anna Melville, a Red Cross Bloodbank donor recipient, to come and speak to VFAFAUA members about how she effectively "owes her life" to the Bloodbank and the service they provide. Sitting there listening to her story was certainly a good "reality check" on how fortunate we are to be able to get out there and run around a football field and also on the important role in our community that the Bloodbank plays.

Another good initiative in 2008 was the Umpires Appreciation Day which was jointly supported by the VFAFA and AFL and VFAFA Umpires Associations. The

“centrepiece” for this was a match between Williamstown CYMS and Latrobe University where media were in attendance resulting in coverage on the ABC news that evening. This perhaps was a good first step towards something more in the future about how umpires just like most players want to enjoy what they’re doing without attracting a lot of the abuse from a minority of players and spectators, who for some reason see this as “culturally acceptable”. And then to go one step further, to be appreciated for our contribution, well that of course would be a nice bonus. Certainly I believe there is an opportunity with this concept to take it further in the future like Benny has suggested.

Members also looked smarter at training and attending games with the personalized training tops and polo shirts co-ordinated by Vice-President Rob Sneddon and supplied by Cam Nash. These were provided at bargain basement prices with the Executive approving a subsidised arrangement to make it as inexpensive as possible for members to purchase these items.

Overall, financially we ended the year in a comfortable enough position. We had a major “one off cost” with the new honour boards which all members would agree were a good addition and another step in a longer term plan to improve the amenity of the umpires rooms. Well done AD for organising this. There were also a couple of smaller “once in a while” expenses ( including the training tops / polo shirts ) so these items aside our budget would have been in surplus for the year. I fully supported the approach taken by the Executive to ensure that members are able to clearly see the value in the membership fees they pay each year and that our reserves be kept only at a reasonable level. It has been a fact that members who have participated fully in the VAFAUA activities in recent years have effectively received back all of the annual fees they have contributed by way of subsidies for umpiring gear, special initiatives like the one mentioned above, and the annual dinner. Then there have been the free barbeques provided at the monthly meetings and the “cheapest bar prices in Melbourne”. And whilst on the subject of money I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of outgoing Treasurer Paul Jones who has always been a fine steward of the Association’s funds. The advice he provides in his Treasurer’s Report is sage indeed and we all need to recognize that if we want to do more “one off” items then our budget would need to be supplemented by other means eg. fund raising.

My thanks go to the hard working VAFA Executive, especially outgoing Executive members Rob Sneddon, Paul Jones and Vin Vescovi – and all those ‘hard working others, some of whom have been mentioned. It is true that most of the hard work is done behind the scenes and is invisible to most. Thanks also to Benny and his team of Advisors / Observers and also to Michael Sholly and the VAFA Administration / Executive. A close working relationship between the VAFAUA and “upstairs” remains a vital ingredient for the general improvement of umpiring moving forward and I have been pleased with the positive approach during my 4 years as President with the environment for Umpires continuing to improve.

And so now I have handed over the reins to our new President Russell Davidson. With his wealth of experience from the VFL and his excellent knowledge of umpiring generally there’s no doubt this role is in a pair of capable hands with “Rusty”. I urge all members to get behind him and the new Executive so that Umpiring in the VAFA can maintain it’s pre-eminent position that we believe it currently holds.

It has been my privilege to serve the Association as President for 4 years. It has certainly been a rewarding experience to put something back into an Association that

I have been a member of now for 17 years. My aim has always been to ensure that whatever the issue has been to put the interests of the members first, which is what I believe the role of President is mostly about.

And as I leave the job I'm pleased too that as umpires we are still out there running around in the traditional blue and white and we haven't followed the trend to orange of many other leagues. This was something that all members voted on at the time with the result being that we thought blue and white was still best. At times elsewhere outside of the VAFA I think that umpires are seen as being an "accessory to the game" and decisions can be made on things like uniform without regard to how umpires will look when they are out on the field performing their duties. Whilst certainly not wanting to stand out ( which surely we would be in 'fluro orange' ! ) in my view it is important that the role and image of umpiring in the VAFA is well managed and the example I refer to here reflects well on the current state of things in this regard. And when it comes to balancing tradition with innovation I think the VAFA and VAFAUA consistently get it right. In conclusion, there should be every confidence that Umpiring in the VAFA can only continue to get better and represent a benchmark for all others to follow.

I wish all members the best for Season 2009.

**Rob Mayston**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The season of 2008 was another very successful season for the VAFUA. The quality of our umpiring in the Amateurs has continued its enviable reputation in the Amateur community and wider football community.

Congratulations to members of the Umpires Association Executive for their efforts and leadership of our organisation. A special thanks to our outgoing President Rob Mayston for his commitment, energy and the countless hours he contributed to leading and representing our organisation with distinction. Sincere thanks to our retiring executive members for their contribution to the success of our organisation.

2008 has been a year which has seen a consolidation of our very successful and popular functions including our end of season dinner, grand final luncheon, trivia night Elise Sneddon Foundation charity golf day and regular poker evenings. Congratulations to Anthony Damen, Rob Sneddon and Paul Jones respectively for their fantastic work and commitment towards organising these events.

A big thank you to our loyal sponsors in particular Personal Mortgage Managers (Anthony Damen), Melbourne Sports Books (Santo Caruso) and our regular sponsors of our charity golf day who are too numerous to mention.

Particular congratulations and thanks to: Albie Firley for his work as Social Secretary; 'Doc' Rechtman for the many hours put in as Bar Manager; and Paul Jones for his prudent work as Treasurer.

Congratulations to Tim Sutcliffe for his excellent work with our website. It is a fantastic vehicle for communication: between our members and the VAFUA, and the wider amateur and football communities, and is gaining in importance every year.

This recent year saw increased security in the the long term future of our umpires rooms. Members can rest assured that the new executive will keep the interests of our members paramount in any future discussions and negotiations with the VAFA and local Council.

It has been very heartening to see so many young umpires consolidating their development and moving through the ranks. Brian Goodman does a great job spearheading the recruitment of new umpires but we must also remember that we are **all** ambassadors of the VAFUA and should advocate the benefits of amateur umpiring wherever and whenever we can. Retaining umpires over the long term is always challenging and the new executive is putting plans in place to recognise extended service.

Finally, best wishes to all umpires for an enjoyable and rewarding season in 2009.

Alan Stubbs



## **SOCIAL REPORT**

The formal social activities of the VAFAUA continued on with the theme of 'quality not quantity'. The 'new additions' for 2008 were our (i) "Saturday aftermatch" to celebrate the 150 years of Australian Rules Football (ii) the new venue for the annual dinner at the MCG Members Dining Room – for more on this refer to the President's Report. Mention should also be made of the Trivia Night which once again was a great success.

The functions / activities that were held were as follows :-

- Monthly BBQ's on Association Meeting Nights, Clubrooms
- 'Poker Club', Clubrooms
- "Saturday night aftermatch" to celebrate 150 Years of Australian Rules Football, Clubrooms
- Trivia Night, Clubrooms
- City to Surf Run, Sydney
- Annual Dinner, MCG Members' Dining Room
- Grand Final Lunch, Clubrooms
- End of Season BBQ & Presentations, Clubrooms
- Charity Golf Tournament, Kingston Links

A number of people helped to ensure these were all successful. Special mention to Sue Thornycroft for helping out with meals and helping to sort out the kitchen again.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Season 2008 saw much of the money we had saved for a "rainy day" spent on items that don't come up every season. Brand new honour boards plus the updating of existing ones cost us over \$4100.

Having the honour of one of umpires represent us in Ireland meant a total cost \$4500 of which the association contributed a third.

Another one off expense was for the 150 year celebrations medallions. These items plus our normal running expenses saw our total cash position fall by around \$6000, but to a still reasonably comfortable end of season position of around \$10,000.

The incoming Committee is aware of our position, and should the budget for 2009 look to include further other "one off" items ( eg. Clubroom improvements ) some fund raising might need to be considered. Accordingly I ask all members to get behind the incoming Executive and the process of developing our level of expenditure for 2009 and beyond.

I will again thank my fellow committee members for their work during the season and indeed the entire membership for their support during my time as your treasurer. To our last remaining sponsor Personal Mortgage Managers thanks once again.

I would like to finish by wishing my successor Paul Tuppen an enjoyable time in the role and ask the members to give him the same level of support that was given to me.

Paul Jones FCPA

**V.A.F.A. UMPIRES ASSOCIATION**  
**PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2008**

	2008	2007
<b>INCOME:</b>		
Functions	\$14,755.00	\$12,585.00
Fundraising	\$841.00	\$1,097.00
Golf Day	\$800.00	
Gear Sales	\$1,565.00	
Hiring Charges - Room	\$810.00	\$720.00
Interest Received	\$255.00	\$20.00
Social Club Income	\$13,668.00	\$13,503.00
Sponsorship	\$250.00	\$750.00
Subscriptions - Membership Fees	<u>\$18,131.00</u>	<u>\$14,867.00</u>
<b><u>TOTAL INCOME:</u></b>	<u>\$51,075.00</u>	<u>\$43,542.00</u>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Bank and Government Charges	\$29.00	\$24.40
Building Maintenance	\$460.00	-
Depreciation	\$4,748.00	\$4,869.00
Depreciation - Abnormal Write-Down Building Improvements	-	\$40,372.00
Donations	\$1,641.00	\$3,097.00
Electricity	\$123.00	\$293.00
Functions	\$20,600.00	\$19,207.00
Gear Purchases	\$3,031.00	\$1,829.00
Golf Day	\$0.00	\$233.00
Honorariums	\$750.00	\$750.00
Insurance	\$2,953.72	\$1,362.68
Licences and Permits	\$202.70	\$194.30
Other VAFA Expenses	\$1,554.00	\$362.00
Postage	\$175.00	\$128.00
Room Cleaning	\$300.00	\$463.00
Social Club Expenses	\$13,935.00	\$11,964.00
Stock Obsolescence		
Sundry Expenses	\$4,438.00	\$1,858.00
Telephone	\$400.09	\$860.00
Trophies and Honourboards	\$6,514.20	\$2,619.00
Water Rates	<u>\$28.30</u>	<u>\$48.80</u>
<b><u>TOTAL EXPENSES:</u></b>	<u>\$61,883.01</u>	<u>\$90,534.18</u>
<b><u>NET SURPLUS</u></b>	-\$10,808.01	-\$46,992.18
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS AT THE START OF THE YEAR</b>	<u>\$133,397.00</u>	<u>\$180,389.00</u>
<b><u>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE YEAR</u></b>	<u><u>\$122,588.99</u></u>	<u><u>\$133,397.00</u></u>

**V.A.F.A. UMPIRES ASSOCIATION**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2008**

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
<b><u>MEMBER FUNDS</u></b>		
<b><u>MOVEMENT IN MEMBER FUNDS</u></b>		
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	<b><u>\$ 122,589</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 133,397</u></b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
<b><u>CURRENT ASSETS</u></b>		
Cash at Bank		
- General Account	5,878	11,603
- Social Club Account	3,806	5,137
Stock on Hand		
- Uniforms	545	457
- Social Club	443	126
Debtors		-
<b><u>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</u></b>	<b><u>10,672</u></b>	<b><u>17,323</u></b>
<b><u>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</u></b>		
<b><u>PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</u></b>		
Buildings at Cost - on Leased Land	142,533	142,533
Building Improvements at Cost	14,431	14,431
Acc Depreciation on Building	-49,159	-45,235
Furniture, Fixtures & Fittings	9,594	9,004
Acc Depreciation on Furn.	-5,482	-4,659
<b><u>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</u></b>	<b><u>111,917</u></b>	<b><u>116,074</u></b>
<b><u>TOTAL ASSETS</u></b>	<b><u>122,589</u></b>	<b><u>133,397</u></b>
<b><u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>	-	-
<b><u>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>	-	-
<b><u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u></b>	-	-
<b><u>NET ASSETS</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 122,589</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 133,397</u></b>

## AUDITORS REPORT

### INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF V.A.F.A UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

#### **Scope**

I have audited the financial statements of V.A.F.A Umpires Association for the year ended 31 October 2008. The committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. I have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free to material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements so as to present a view of the association which is consistent with our understanding of its financial position and the results of its operations.

The audit opinion in the report has been formed on the above basis.

#### **Audit Opinion**

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly the financial opinion of the V.A.F.A Umpires Association as at 31 October 2008 and the results of its operations for the period then ended in accordance with Statements of Accounting Concepts, applicable Australian Accounting Standards and in compliance with the Association's constitution.

**DATED THIS 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2009**



**DAVID HINDLE  
DAVID HINDLE & ASSOCIATES  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT**

## V.A.F.A.U.A 2008 GRAND FINAL UMPIRES

### SENIORS

	FIELD UMPIRES		BOUNDARY UMPIRES		GOAL UMPIRES	
A Section	Russell Davidson	Tim Sutcliffe	Ben Connor	James Scully	Clayton Evans	Kevin Segota
B Section	Luke Holmes	Cameron Nash	Rebecca Brown	Ryan Morris	Bernie Hoare	Anthony Kyrkou
C Section	Brent Woodhead	Shane Mackintosh	Jordan Mayston	Ben Halfpenny	David Mandelbaum	Dom Napoli
D1 Section	Albie Firley	Wayne Hinton	Brendan Corcoran	Rob Mayston	Charles Lear	Stephen Dower
D2 Section	Mark Gibson	James Twining	Frank Palermo	Tyler Raymond	Joey Marks	Glenn Young
D3 Section	Peter James	Joel Morrison	Glen Kennedy	Julian Maccioni	Vin Vescovi	Daniel Scully
D4 Section	Peter Angelis	Jonathon Auditore	Sean Collins	Robert Hamilton	Graeme Booth	John Robinson

### RESERVES

A Section	Tom Windlow	Nick Fennessy	Damien Anthony	Tom Wischer	Alistair Kyrkou	Nick Kenna
B Section	Peter Cahill	Mervyn Monty	Frank Stokes	Will Stokes	David Hindle	Patrick Newson
C Section	Hugh Tevelein	Lionel Katz	Daniel Mason	Jordan Rowe	Clive Shipley	Graham Templar
D1 Section	Simon Stokes	Patrick Gallus	Kevin Pardy	Tom Schipper	Jim Alwer	Adrian Keane
D2 Section	Michael Hooper	Rob Sneddon	Jarryd Barry	Loic Marte	Bob Seymour	Garry Clancy
D3 Section	Sig Sokolowski	Paul Tuppen	Santo Caruso	Paul Legget	Jim Exton	Ray Matters
D4 Section	Philip Callil	Dean Schwab	Cally Greene	Toby Newton	Bruce Stephens	Paul Whitehead

### UNDER 19's

U/19 Premier	Darren Dalglish	Andrew Scotford	Jack Cooper	Joe Draffen	Alec Maclachlan	Damien Zuch
U/19 North 1	Grant Wardrop	S.Lawrence RDFL	Keiran McInerney	Simon McInerney	Greg Rollo	J.Buttigieg RDFL
U/19 North 2	Peter Liddell	S.Robinson RDFL	A.Goudie RDFL	L.Moore RDFL	Craig Arnol	M.Cusack RDFL
U/19 South 1	Leah Gallagher	Ryan Robertson	Alex. Anthony	Jayde Daly	Andrew Dawson	Michael Simpson
U/19 South 2	Anthony Damen	Jayson Nooy	Daniel Phillips	Danny Lawlor	Tim Norton	Mike Rose

### Representative Umpires

	Field	Boundary	Goal
VAFA U19 vs QAFL U21, Brisbane	Luke Holmes	-	-
VAFA vs AFL Sydney, Sydney	Russell Davidson	-	-
VAFA C-D4 vs VCFL Districts, Elsternwick Park	Tim Sutcliffe, Brent Woodhead	Jordan Mayston	Chris Kearney
All Aust. Amateurs International Rules, Ireland Tour	Tim Sutcliffe	-	-

# 2008 AWARDS

## Life Membership

Alan Stubbs, Bob Seymour, David D'Altera, Mick Gilday, Michael Forde, Andrew Rechtman, Ron Martyn

## 10 Year Service Award

Lionel Katz

## VAF A Umpire of the Year

Luke Holmes

## Golden Whistle Award

Joel Morrison

## Bob Dunstan Award

Michael Troup

## Andy Carrick Award

Sean Scully Snr.

## Most Improved Field Umpire

Patrick Gallus

## Most Improved Boundary Umpire

Ben Halfpenny

## Most Improved Goal Umpire

Alistair Kyrkou

## Most Promising Umpire

Danny Lawlor

## Young Achiever Award

Jayde Daly