



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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PATRONS:

Gillon McLachlan

John Hammer

Susan Alberti AC (Women)



NATIONAL AFL MASTERS PRESIDENT REPORT 2022

With the turmoil of the last few Covid years behind us we have been looking forward to far less interruptions and some consistency for AFL Masters. Well, the return of on field activity and the ability to enjoy the game we all love has finally arrived.

The QuickKick program has been a complete hit - far exceeding our initial expectations. The delivery has been smooth and seamless. From the outset it was clear that there is strong demand for this type of program quickly attracting participants in all states and territories across Australia. Thanks must go to Adrian Raftery, Cath Quinn and their team for the enthusiastic approach in getting the program rolled out. The support for the program from the State and Territory administrations has been fantastic ensuring the success of QuickKick. We are confident we will acquire appropriate funding to guarantee the survival of the QuickKick program into the future.

The women's competitions across Australia are now coming to fruition with the States and Territories indicating 2023 and beyond will see significant growth in this area. We believe the QuickKick programme has enhanced the awareness among women about AFL Masters and contributed to the current outcomes with over 3000 new players registering.

Early on in 2022 it was unsure what the local competitions may look like and how successful the return to full participation may be, but in general this has returned to our normal - quickly. As the year progressed all states and territories reported positive growth, with an increase in numbers among the playing groups. By mid-year there were signs we were going to have strong representation at the Adelaide National Carnival.

Brenton Wortley and his organising committee were working quietly throughout the year, with preparations on infrastructure for the National carnival going well. Grounds secured in three locations allowed for five ovals with the three-oval hub at West Beach accommodating administration and umpiring headquarters. Brenton and his team did a great job in hosting the largest AFL Masters carnival on record. Our new GM delivered his first National carnival having more than 1220 registrations and 1650 attendees at the final night function. The week in Adelaide had a busy schedule which included a High Tea, Hall of Fame function and a Golf Day event, all of which went seamlessly. KommunityTV live streaming, trialled for the first time this year, has added another dimension to the National carnival profile and exposure, with excellent audience take up.

Chris Guice and his ninety plus umpiring group officiated in 90 games over the four days without incident or a single player being reported. This reflects the professional delivery and the manner in which the umpires carried out their duties for the entire program – well done.

Of course, this all cannot happen without the State and Territory committees working to ensure teams from all over the country attend the event. The biggest carnival on record is testament to the exceptional work that is being done throughout the organisation at all levels.



A special thank you to Tony Costanza and Tony Saunders from the AFL for their continued support in the successful roll out of Player HQ and considerations made for AFL Master within the programme, along with the game day help in ensuring a seamless delivery of information.

Most importantly thank you to our National GM Adrian Raftery. Ian Fletcher (VP) Andrew Nielsen – director and Sara Loh - our newly appointed board member – welcome Sarah. Arnold Krueger our registrar & programme guru. Clare Walker our newly appointed coms officer who has effortlessly integrated into the team and produced some great outcomes for AFL Masters. The entire group has worked together to not only deliver the biggest carnival on record but continue to dedicate so much of their time in advancing all aspects of AFL Masters'. AFL Masters has never been in a better or stronger position, with more great initiatives to come.

Advancing “Footie for Fun” in 2023

Onward and upward in 2023 and enjoy “Footy for Fun”

Steve Eurell

President - AFL Masters Inc



NATIONAL AFL MASTERS GENERAL MANAGER REPORT 2022

As I scroll through the photos from this year – many which appear in this report – and reflect on 2022, my heart is filled with many wonderful memories of my first year in this (home) office. It's almost unfathomable to think that just 12 months ago we were contemplating a third-COVID interrupted year. Some States were still in lockdown, whilst the nation's daily cases peaked to all-time highs as other States opened up and the Omicron variant created havoc with immune systems.

Roll forward 12 months and we can fortunately say that footy is back and here to stay. Whilst most segments throughout the AFL industry have struggled to return to pre-COVID levels, AFL Masters enjoyed tremendous growth and now considered the AFL's second fastest growing segment with 13,568 people playing our game in 2022, an increase of 62.2% on 2021's participation numbers.

During the year, we successfully launched our new AFL Masters QuickKick program where 2904 women signed up to play the code for the first time and kickstarted growth of women's competitions across the country. When I attended some QuickKick clinics, I simply loved listening to the laughter and happiness plus the endless "Sorrlys" as the perfect kick or handball wasn't executed. These women may be new to the code but they well and truly epitomise our AFL Masters motto of "Fun, Fitness and Friendship".

Our flagship event – the AFL Masters National Carnival - had a whopping 1567 players and officials in attendance in Adelaide during the last week in September - 57% bigger than Townsville 2019 - and contributed a massive \$5.2M to the South Australian economy in the process. We successfully introduced Mens 65s and Womens 40s for the first time at the Carnival as well as reinstating the Mens 35s and 40s as standalone divisions. The livestreaming of 41 National Carnival matches via a new partnership with KommunityTV and News Corp was a first and proved to be a ratings success online. The off-field events were well attended and congratulations to our four new inductees into our Hall of Fame, the two elevations to Legends Status and the granting of Life Membership to Chris Guice.

Whilst things went well on the field, it was also a strong year financially off the field for AFL Masters. As can be seen by the audited financial statements at the end of this report, we recorded a profit of \$28,653 which will be reinvested back into the code next year. Our turnover surpassed \$900,000 for the first time, largely thanks to \$275,000 Participation Grant from Sport Australia which kickstarted AFL Masters QuickKick. Sponsorship agreements were signed with Sherrin and SIXT whilst we are grateful for the financial support of the SA Tourism Commission.

After being an AFL Masters player since 2006, it has been an absolute honour to be your new General Manager and say goodbye to the boring worlds of academia and tax. With any new career change there is always a challenging period as you find one's feet but I must thank four groups of people for making my transition significantly easier at this end.

First, the National Board have been tremendous with their generosity with respect to their time, assistance, guidance and most importantly patience this year. After two decades with Neil in the role I am sure there were times that they wished that he didn't retire. Steve, Fletch, Tank and Pam provided wise counsel and did some significant hand holding to stamp their philosophies into my mindset. Thank you for this amazing opportunity and also for embracing my family as one of your own.

Second, I would like to acknowledge Neil King for his tutelage particularly in his last year in office. To be able to pick his brains on almost a daily basis, certainly helped with the handover.

Third, I would like to thank the State & Territory Presidents and their respective committees. A number of you underwent significant change as well with four new Presidents also finding your feet in this post-COVID world. Thank you for your patience, your quickness in response to my never-ending requests and willingness to embrace new opportunities such as AFL Masters QuickKick. Its successful launch together with a great National Carnival can be attributed to your love and devotion to footy and AFL Masters in particular. Masters Footy is in good hands under your collective stewardship. I do want to single out the AFL Masters SA President, Brenton Wortley, and his great Adelaide Organising Committee for hosting a great National Carnival. I am already missing my daily calls with my lil buddy.

Last, but just as important as the other three groups, I would like to thank our wonderful team of Development Officers throughout the country, capably led by Cath Quinn. It is not easy to start in a role and be asked to immediately rollout an idea to all pockets of the nation but your enthusiasm to embrace the challenge was simply amazing and breathtaking. The AFL Masters QuickKick Program is a credit to you. Not only did we reach our goals with the project's implementation, you absolutely smashed them and created a legacy for AFL Masters that we will be the beneficiaries for many more years to come. Bravo! Special thanks to Arnold Keuker (National Registrar), Clare Walker (National Communications Officer) and Chris Guice (National Umpiring Director) for some great work to make this year's Carnival such a seamless success.

Whilst 2022 was a great year, on reflection I felt that there were a number of things that we could have done better. For this reason alone I cannot wait for 2023 to implement a few changes to make next year even more successful.

To all who participated in AFL Masters thank you for your contribution to the code. I wish happiness and health to all of you and your families in the 12 months ahead.

Adrian Raftery

General Manager - AFL Masters Inc





NATIONAL AFL MASTERS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORT

As National Development Officer, I am honoured to have the opportunity to report on the development and success of the Female Participation Project.

2022 saw the delivery of the \$250,000, Sports Australia funded, AFL Masters Female Participation Project. In April 2022, 9 State Development Officers and 1 National Development Officer were appointed to manage the roll out of the project. The aim of the Female Participation Project was to increase the participation of women 35 and over in AFL Masters run programs and competitions in all areas of the game including as players, coaches and umpires. The project focused on three main areas of development:

- Learn the game (beginners),
- Play/Coach/Umpire the game (experienced players),
- Promote the game (to retired community/amateur football participants who are unaware of Masters).



Learn the Game:

Our flagship product for the AFLM Female Participation Project is QuickKick. QuickKick is a product created to teach the fundamental skills of football to women 35 and over who were never

afforded the opportunity to play football growing up. In April 2022, we developed the first ever 6-week QuickKick Curriculum and launched the product on May 17. Some QuickKick successes include:

- Development of a 6-week curriculum document based on the AusKick format, focussing on the fundamental skills of football and finishing the program with a game of footy for fun.
- QuickKick official launch at the MCG on 17th May by AFLM patron Susan Alberti
- 2903 registrations for QuickKick through PlayHQ
- 47 Clinics delivered across Australia within the 6 months from May to October
- QuickKick participants transitioning from QuickKick to participating in established competitions in Vic Metro, SA and WA
- QuickKick participants transitioning from QuickKick to participating in the National Carnival
 - QLD 5 QK registered for National Carnival
 - 3 QK played in ACT team at National Carnival
 - NT 2 QK registered
 - SA 2 QK registered and 1 QK coach became Barbarians coach.
- Product has sparked interest at the AFL with Auskick and Alternative Formats Manager, Richard Quail expressing a desire to be involved in a collaborative Auskick and QuickKick pilot program in Western Australia led by WA SDO, Trish Medwin.



Play/Coach/Umpire the Game:

While the focus of QuickKick was to increase the number of women 35 and over who are relatively new to football to get involved, the Female Participation Project aimed to increase the opportunities for women to play/coach/umpire in the game on a regular basis in an established or establishing competition. The State Development Officers have worked well with the State AFL Masters bodies to increase the opportunities for women to participate in a regular Master's competition. Successes include:

- In ACT the men's master's increased their 1 match Heart Mind and Soul Cup to 4 rounds. The ACT QuickKickers and some experienced women joined together to play a footy for fun game in rounds 3 and 4 with the hope to increase this to more rounds in 2023.
- SA Women's Masters held their inaugural competition hosting 6 rounds of football. Each round was a rock-up style game averaging 22-30 participants each round.
- WA saw a 14-round competition, including 2 country games. 12 QuickKick participants transitioning into Clubs and participating in the established competition.
- Off the back of the QuickKick Clinics, QLD held 3 Footy for Fun Games – with great turn out – the last game saw 45 participants rock up to play.
- QLD has committed to the establishment of a Women's Masters Competition in 2023
- NT held a showcase game for master's women in June during the Darwin 9's comp utilising QuickKick players and wives of men's Masters players which was a highlight and great for exposure.
- Balmain hosted a Women's Game at their annual carnival which helped grow awareness of Women's masters Football amongst clubs in NSW
- Female master's competition for 2022 has finished – was the first time that there has been a women's finals series and was a huge success.
- The inaugural Division 2 was another huge success and provided a platform for women who did not want to engage in as much physical contact to still play the game with modified rules.



While developing increased opportunities for women to play in established competitions was a major part of the project, providing opportunities for women to develop coaching skills and confidence was also seen as a priority. In September, at the National Carnival we launched the AFL Masters Coaching Scholarship. The AFL Masters Coaching Scholarship provides financial assistance to women over 35 to complete their Level 2 or Level 3 Coaching Accreditations. The scholarship was open to any female (or males involved in the female programs) within the Masters Community (or intending to join). To date we have accepted 23 women around the country to receive the scholarship with 21 enrolled to do the Level 2 Course and 2 seeking to do their Level 3 (one in WA one in NT). Some states have since removed the fees for women doing their coaching

accreditations, but they have still been included in our numbers as it was the Scholarship promotion that led them to enrol.

Promote the Game:

Through the development and roll out of the QuickKick program, we have been successful in reaching new participants to AFL Masters. The development of 23 Marketing assets – 21 Flyers and 2 Videos along with 9 State based and 1 National QuickKick Facebook page to communicate with and grow our audience.

In the first week of opening registrations, we received over 1000 registrations, proving that there is a strong appetite for women 35 and over to engage with Masters football.

Cath Quinn

National Development Officer - AFL Masters Inc





NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF UMPIRING REPORT 2022

Congratulations to the organisers of the 2022 Carnival, the steering committee led by Brenton Wortley must be commended for putting on a great show. Also, many thanks to the National Board, State and Territory Presidents for their support and cooperation throughout the carnival.

Many thanks to all umpires both who travel and the local Adelaide Football League Umpiring Team. Your contribution to the success of the carnival was outstanding along with your cooperation during the carnival. It can get hectic and having so many umpires prepared to get in, assist and provide a high standard of umpiring is very much appreciated and valued. At the end of the day, we had 95 Umpires registered of which 91 took to the field.

As we all know this was the first year with PlayHQ and OfficialsHQ. It was always going to be challenging, however with the wonderful support of Tony Saunders (AFL), Tony Costanzo (AFL), Arnold Keuker (AFL Masters), and last but by no means least Peter Angel (Adelaide FL). Peter's commitment and work behind the scenes as my direct assistant with Appointments needed to be seen to be believed, simply put if it wasn't for Peter's amazing dedication and patience who knows how we would have finished up.

Another team of amazing people were our umpire managers. My hat goes off to Steve Dalziel, Kellie Nankervis, David Palmer and the old stager Ray Hocking, gee we go a long way back. Nothing was too much trouble and we weathered a few storms! Match days are challenging, at times some people around you lose their heads but yet again all of you kept yours and were professional in everything you did, a job well done.

Many thanks to Colin Rowston the Adelaide Football League Umpiring Manager. From the moment we met your acceptance of the Masters Football concept and our National Carnival has been outstanding. Your cooperation, support, guidance and "nothing is too much trouble" attitude was much appreciated and shall never be forgotten.

So, to each and every one of you, job well done and we nailed it! Achieving goals is never left to chance, it's taken a group of talented, dedicated and hardworking people to share a vision, take pride in their performance and get on with it. Hopefully we may get to see some of you at Maroochydhore next year. What a wonderful location, surf, sun, mountains and football at an outstanding facility, we can't go wrong!

Umpire Numbers based on the 91 who took the field from 95 registered to participate:

Breakdown of travelling umpires:

Field: 16

Boundary: 1

Goal: 11

Total: 28

Adelaide Umpires:**Field:** 33**Boundary:** 13**Goal:** 17**Total:** 63**Overview of umpire competence:**

Considering our selection policy as follows;

"Selection shall be based on each umpires experience, ability and performance, and then matched to games within their availability, fitness level and capabilities for the welfare and enjoyment of players and umpires".

Our umpires performed exceptionally well across all age groups and divisions, they can all be enormously proud of their contribution to an enjoyable and successful carnival. As always, we had a small amount of "tweaking" along the journey but overall, we had no major issues. I felt we all adapted to the Carnival Rules and the introduction of the 6-6-6 was accepted and managed very well. As an insight, it's no different to how coaches coach their teams, we do the same, we monitor our umpires and assist them in understanding correct interpretations, emphasize player safety and the zero tolerance for umpire abuse, dissent or any actions deemed inappropriate and/or can be interpreted as offensive. It all makes for a pleasant environment for all parties, including families.

**Player conduct:**

Across the board the players are to be commended for the spirit in which they played the game. It was particularly pleasing to see the rapport and respect between players and umpires. All State/Territory Presidents, Coaches and Captains are to also be commended for their strong leadership. I can assure you all, that determines the presentation of their respective teams and the positive attitude of their players well before they arrive at the carnival. Matches were highly competitive (as they should be at Carnivals) but played in the true Master's spirit. I must say when players just play footy and we let umpires' umpire, it is amazing how much better players play

and umpire's umpire! Players will always determine our level of involvement or the need to step in so to speak. I have always had a very simple instruction to umpires, if players want to play football, let them. Also, to coaches, captains and players "just play football", put the two together and it's a positive combination for a great day of footy!

Breakdown of send offs:

6 x Yellow Cards

1 x Red Card, however this was not a player but a Team Runner

Playing Rules:

With States and Territories all playing under their own set of local rules, it makes it particularly challenging for players and umpires to adapt at National Carnivals. The AFL rules over more recent seasons, if anything, have gotten closer to our Masters rules, especially in relation to player protection and rough conduct. I have been a strong advocate for years of the standardisation of rules for Masters football across the land, I am also of the opinion there has never been a better time to do so than now.

Match trends:

Over the course of the week match trends can show up or form, at times we need to highlight any areas of concern and bring it to the attention of the Board and State Presidents. These could range from impacting on player safety, presentation of our code or simply issues that need addressing.

We did have some as follows:

Players purposely ducking their heads, leading with their heads and/or keeping their heads down to draw free kicks.

This is an extremely dangerous practice and as umpires (unless an opposition player contributes by his negligence) we can give players no protection in these instances, nor should we. We noticed at the start of the carnival players were attempting to draw free's, however as we progressed though the week players realised, they were not going to receive them and it drifted out of their game.

Blocking:

There were still instances of players blocking their teammates' opponents, this was particularly noticeable in forward lines where players mill together (especially out of the goal square), some being ever so subtle but enough to give their team mate an unfair advantage on a lead. The message is we are onto it and shall action it appropriately for this is not in the right spirit.

Holding/Grabbing Jumpers

There was a rise in players grabbing opposition jumpers and holding. This was evident in both ruck and marking contests and attempting to negate forwards (maybe we see too much of it on TV). The simple solution is don't do it, or if you do and get caught out don't complain! Umpires have been instructed to be mindful of this practice and action it appropriately. Again, it's not in the true spirit of Masters Football.

The future:

Yes, we do rely on local umpire support, however all States and Territories must realise to further enhance National Carnivals we must all be actively encouraging suitably qualified umpires to travel from all areas to participate, no different to players. To be specific experienced accredited umpires. Never underestimate how important your ongoing support, encouragement and active recruitment is.



Umpire Carnival registration:

I am also of the opinion there needs to be a screening system for Carnival umpire nominations, at the moment anyone can register and this could and will cause issues. I shall be working with the National Board on a solution to this with a view to it being implemented for 2023 and beyond.

Player/Umpires to be scraped:

I would suggest the days of player/umpires at AFL Masters National Carnival are over. You either come as player or umpire, not both. Of course, we acknowledge over the years the wonderful commitment of player/umpires, many of us started that way! However, our carnivals have evolved and it's pretty much unmanageable. Player/umpires get injured, go missing, are fatigued, have team commitments and want to be involved in team activities, the constant challenge of arranging or juggling appointments around to suit them is unreasonable. It's also unsettling to the rest of the umpires and simply not fair on them and the players. We had a situation on the last day where it came to a head and caused a domino effect for other umpires and players, this simply can't be happening. It will be my recommendation to future carnival umpiring management to not entertain player/umpires.

Umpire awards are given out at the conclusion of the carnival, congratulations to the following people:

AFL Masters Umpire Excellence Award

This is presented to a person involved with the umpiring group or umpire who has shown outstanding commitment to umpiring and the game. Who has been a positive role model, is enthusiastic around their fellow umpires, takes great pride in their performance and demonstrates a high level of integrity. **The recipient in 2022 is:** Danny Fitzpatrick

Umpire of the carnival and All Australian Umpires by age divisions:

Over 35/40's: Matt Harris (The Ray Hocking Medal) Umpire of the Carnival.

Over 45/50's: Grantly Byrne

55/60's: Danny Fitzpatrick

65's/Women: Steve Dalziel

Boundary umpires of the carnival: Peter McMullen & Adrian Weir

Goal Umpires of the carnival: Katrina Orr & Murray Orr

Rising Star Field Umpire Award: Damon Rossie

Rising Star Boundary Award: Sam Glasson

Rising Star Goal Umpires: Lucas Hofert
Rising Stars: Tyson Psalia and Cooper Hamlyn
Encouragement award: Lea Zhao
Appreciation Awards:
Peter Angel
Kellie Nankervis
David Palmer
Colin Rowston



My role as AFL Masters National Director of Umpires has come to an end.

Almost 12 years ago I approached the National Board with a concern about the future of Carnival umpiring. Of course, when you do that, you also need to come up with solutions.

I put a proposal to the National Board which included where we needed to take Carnival umpiring into the future, how more professional it needed to be, we pay umpires for their service and the importance of the involvement of local umpiring groups to bolster our travelling umpire ranks. Carnivals were simply getting bigger and bigger and we needed to step up our game or fall well behind which would put carnivals in jeopardy. I would suggest it would be fair to say what with the Adelaide Carnival player participation record and umpire numbers highlights we were exactly on the money.

The days of seeing who shows up at the Umpires Meeting the day before are over for good. A lot of ground work needed to be done and the National Board were 100% supportive of that. I wish to thank in particular Derek Delaney for his vision and drive in supporting our plans for the future of carnival umpiring. With all State and Territory Presidents and National Delegates onboard the support through my entire time in the role has been outstanding. You let me get on with it, didn't interfere and had my back, I thank you all for that.

I must also thank Neil King our previous General Manager for his unwavering support, guidance and advice. You were great to work with and whenever I needed something or had issues you actioned it swiftly and in the upmost professional way.

I am pleased to say we achieved in spades what we set out to do in relation to all aspects required to guarantee the future of carnival umpiring, that includes securing local umpiring support, continuing to look after travelling umpires and payment for umpire services. Of the utmost importance was all umpires have an enjoyable, rewarding and positive experience with AFL Masters, that has been a priority and we have never swayed from that nor shall we.

My recommendation to the Board is we are now at the stage where local governing bodies need to take over fully the management of carnival umpiring. I would like to point out travelling umpires shall continue to be looked after, as we all know with both travelling and local umpires all being in the OfficialsHQ system, that makes it possible.

Of course, there shall always be the need to maintain a strong communication link between AFL Masters Board and the local body (in the case of 2023 AFL Queensland). So, in 2023 there shall be a person appointed in that role to be that link between both parties.

In the case of the 2023 National Carnival being played at Maroochydore, AFL Queensland and their umpiring department shall be managing all umpiring matters. That's from all OfficialsHQ requirements, all appointments and their alteration's, availabilities, pays and match day umpire management. AFLQ shall have people on the ground match days as the go to with any matters relating to umpiring, they shall also be the first port of call for all umpires and to directly communicate with.

I have every intention of umpiring at Maroochydore and into the future. I shall not be involved in the day-to-day management of umpires, should anyone approach me (and they will) I shall be respectfully directing them to the AFLQ umpire managers.

In closing:

What an amazing journey it has been, every step we have been side by side, overcome obstacles, all in the name of AFL Masters and bettering it for our current and future players. I look forward to seeing you all in the future and continue to enjoy your company and friendship. Who knows what the future brings, but what I do know is I shall continue to serve the game and AFL Masters to the best of my ability.

If I may just sum up what we have achieved in Carnival Umpiring over the past 11/12 years (add being Ray's off-sider it's well over 20 years), I shall simply point to the 2022 Adelaide AFL Masters Carnival Umpires team photo, that's it right there and sums up the journey perfectly. They say a picture paints a thousand words, this is so true in this instance and there is nothing more that needs to be said!

Chris Guice

National Director of Umpiring - AFL Masters Inc

STATE/TERRITORY AFL MASTERS PRESIDENTS' REPORTS 2022



ACT President's Annual Report 2022

Last year's report predicted that the vision and hard work of many people involved in masters footy in the ACT would come to fruition despite a broken 2021 season. Well, the ACT has begun to reap what it sowed over the last few years to lay the ground for a prosperous future.

The Heart Mind and Soul Cup was a great success, finally completed despite continual heavy rains threatening ground closures. But a few hasty adjustments to the schedule solved that and the first full season of the Cup was capped off with the grand final at beautiful Ainslie oval where the Wildcats proved a bit too slick for the ANU old boys. The GF was followed by an exhibition game between Defence and newcomers Belconnen, who are organised, talented and coming into the Cup next season. The ACT hopes to expand the Cup franchise even further with expressions of interest in the offing for early next year. The icing on the 2022 cake—landing the sponsorship of the generous, connected the Hellenic Club—bulks out healthy coffers and sets us up for bigger and better things in 2023.



Other highlights in the year included the ACT mini-carnival and, of course, the ACT sending for the first time a women's team to the national carnival. The influx of masters women came on the back

of the national Quick Kick initiative, which was a great success all over and especially in the ACT. The women performed brilliantly at Adelaide, just missing out on the 35s final to Vic Country, and have already made an enormous contribution to the ACT's culture. It was also nice to send a men's team to a carnival for the first time since Coffs. It was even nicer to perform well, losing only to Vic Metro in the 50s final.



The ACT lads also did a bit of travelling during the season, heading south for winter to Wodonga, the home of the Murray Crays, and then north to take on Wombats in late spring, tropical Sydney. Unfortunately, torrential rain and a risk-adverse sports and rec department meant that the Crays' return game was cancelled at the last moment. The season finally came to a close with a Defence round robin and the annual AFL 9s tournament aka Blouse's Day.

All in all, another massive year and it's a pleasure to again predict that the future of masters footy in the ACT looks bright.

Matt Gately

President - AFL Masters ACT Inc



NSW President's Annual Report 2022

It is with mixed emotions that I write my final report so this one will be short.

Off Field, the finances remain strong even with funds allocated permeative kit purchases for the national carnival. On field was a renewed vibe around the mini carnival format although traveling numbers are still a concern.

The National carnival had mixed Success for NSW with the ladies getting up & the 45s mens going down by a point. The level of interest was great prior to the carnival however the eventual numbers where disappointing, especially after we bought gear based on the feedback. The plan will be for 4 men's & 2 women's in Queensland.



I again provided football for all, Competition, Social, over 50s & the ladies starting to commit.

Reflecting on the past 7 years I am proud what we have achieved & I move on knowing that we are in a better place than when I took over.

I have had help over this time & I thank all the committee members I have served with. Pat & Andrena need a special mention and for the past few years Mat has been invaluable. I cannot thank Alayne enough, not only for her support of me but for all she has contributed to NSW Master for organizing socials to stepping into vacant committee positions.

While I leave the President role, I will remain as the National Carnival Coordinator for next year. I have also accepted a position on the International Committee.

Good luck to those taking on new roles, you will get out of it what you put in. Matt & the next committee will take NSW Masters to the next level.

Bring on 2023.

Bryan Minns

President – New South Wales AFL Masters Inc





Northern Territory President's Annual Report 2022

2022 was a great season for the NT. Eight scheduled games, our annual Beach game, a 9 a side Carnival, a trip to Bali for the Bali 9s Carnival and a National Carnival.

Big thank you to all the committee members this year, Townies , Ferals and Falcons.

Well done to all our players who travelled to Adelaide for their time and commitment. A great time was had by all and having a Win in the Juniors with WA was a complete bonus. Congratulations to SA for a fantastic carnival on and off the field.



Our Registration were down this year due to problems with introducing PlayHQ But hopefully we can improve that next year. Our financials are sound, going forward.

QuickKick was a great success and hopefully it will progress next year to AFLM Women NT.

Big thanks to Adrian and the National Committee for all their help.

Looking forward to next year and doing it all again.

Kim Cowan

President - Masters Australian Football Northern Territory Inc

2022 AFL Masters Annual Report



Queensland President's Annual Report 2022

Season 2022 was a ground-breaking year for AFLMQ with many successful events and Carnivals. We also had the unexpected resignation of the previous President on 3 June 2022 and this led to much needed changes within the Committee.

After many discussions and lengthy bureaucratic processes, we have finally updated the name of the Association from Masters Australian Football Queensland Inc. (MAFQ) to AFL Masters Queensland Inc. (AFLMQ) and we have received the new incorporated certificate.

The easing of COVID restrictions meant we could plan and participate without the threat of COVID, and the health issues associated with the pandemic.

The introduction of the new PlayHQ and OfficialsHQ platforms were a significant step forward for the association and whilst there were numerous teething issues with the implementation of these systems, we are now in a great position administration-wise with a streamlined process for all registrations and game day compliance.

North Queensland again showed growth and held many carnivals in unique and humid locations so well done to all involved and this is also included many female participants. The Gold Coast region have also had a successful year with increased numbers and all games played in great Masters spirit with Broadbeach claiming the win in the finals.

The Brisbane competition continues to grow, and we have now confirmed our intent to have Women's Masters competition in 2023, this is an extremely exciting period for master's footy in QLD and with the inception of the Quick Kick initiative from AFL Masters National, the growth of Women's footy in the over 35's age group has been nothing short of phenomenal and the competition will be very strong on the back of this.

This year also welcomed back the National carnival in Adelaide after a 2-year absence due to COVID and this was a great event with 161 players making the journey to represent QLD at the carnival with 7 teams participating, everyone who attended performed well and QLD won the 60's age group division, a huge thank you to all who attended.

QLD have also been announced as the host of the 2023 National carnival on the Sunshine Coast and this will be an amazing experience for all to participate in a beautiful and popular location, we are planning to have the biggest carnival numbers in the history of the event so we will be working very hard over the next 12 months to ensure that the event is a major success.

We have engaged the services of a paid Administration Officer, and this has proven to be a resounding success for the past season and this role continues into the upcoming season and Maddy will play a pivotal role in the organisation of the 2023 Sunshine Coast National Carnival.



I would like to thank all the hard-working committee members for a great year, we are in very strong position financially and we will be applying for multiple grants to assist with the women's competition.

I would also like to thank all the club delegates for your input, I look forward to working closely with you in the future and to continue to create a supportive environment that promotes positive mental health, fitness and footy for fun.

Sam French

President – AFL Masters Queensland Inc





South Australian President's Annual Report 2022

2022, a Year of Excitement.

The season started with the inclusion of the 2 new clubs, Happy Valley & Tea Tree Gully joining our SA association. This brought our number of Masters Teams up to 18 and both clubs embraced the "Footy for Fun" motto and I'm sure enjoyed their first season.

Games throughout the season were well supported and in the main were played in the true spirit of AFL Masters. Umpiring was performed admirably with the odd misdemeanour being handled well. As per normal the rounds were adjusted from time to time given availability of some grounds, to the participating clubs affected it was handled efficiently and games went ahead without to much inconvenience.

For the first time a game was programmed to be played at Moonta over on Yorke Peninsula. This game was played between Athelstone Raggies & West Brumbys to display the AFL Masters competition, it certainly surprised the locals with the level of skill & competitive nature of the game. The locals welcomed the Teams & it will be part of the program again for next season, possibly played under lights at Kadina.



Our association had strong numbers again for the season, over 650 players registered, which was an excellent result with several new players joining AFL Masters for the first time. This season also saw an increased number of families, partners & children supporting their clubs, well done to all involved.

The annual pilgrimage to Broken Hill went ahead mid-season with a collection of players from our various clubs. Broken Hill won a close game with only a couple of goals in it at the finish. Broken Hill are normally a strong side, some players still playing local Saturday football.

Aside from our normal season there were some extra games played, our over 50 games plus two mini carnivals during the season. This was to give the players playing in the National Carnival, an opportunity to play with possible team mates in their respective age groups. Our AFL Masters Women also were included in these extra games giving them the opportunity to bond together for the National carnival.

Congratulations go to the Women as they worked tirelessly to get numbers required for the Adelaide carnival. The result was two complete Teams plus extra players who then formed the bulk of an extra side, named the Barbarian's as it included several other women from other states.

The jewel in the crown was of course the 2022 AFL Masters National Carnival, held in Adelaide for the first time since 2014, some 8 years ago. It has since been regarded as the biggest & best National Carnival held of all time.

AFL Masters SA had secured the 2022 National Carnival, which became the largest carnival in the AFL Masters history. It had some 60 teams plus over 1200 players in total from around the country compete. Certainly the planning, implementation and organising required to make this the most successful, enjoyable Carnival on record was a huge task. Planning was over a 10-month period, starting after the Perth Carnival in 2021. The organising committee must be applauded for the way the Carnival presented to all competing States & Territory, all together for the first in 3 years.

For the first time for many years SA fielded 10 men's Teams plus 2 women's sides, almost a third with the extra no. of women's players forming the Barbarians team. The SA 35's Men's side plus the 40's side successfully playing off and Winning the Australian Championship. All other SA sides, including our Women's sides performed admirably, with all players giving their all for the State. All played well and congratulations go to the players that were named as All Australians. In total we had a record 35 men and 7 women selected, a great effort considering this Carnival had the highest number of Teams and players on record.

There have been two new clubs enquire about entering into the competition for 2023, Kilburn and Payneham Norwood Union. They have proceeded to tender applications within the guidelines set down in our constitution and will present to Club delegates at our AGM. They will then be voted on for possible acceptance into the AFL Masters SA competition.

While the 2022 season has now finished, we look forward to the 2023 season with confidence and anticipation. Special thank you to my fellow committee members for their ongoing support and tireless efforts to ensure that 2022 was a memorable & successful season.

To all the club delegates on an incredibly rewarding season, where everyone has played their part in maintaining a professional standard to keep our game in great shape. Thank you all for your continued support.

Brenton Wortley

President – Masters Australian Football-SA Division Inc



Tasmanian President's Annual Report 2022

AFL Masters Tasmania were thrilled to attend the Adelaide carnival this year with a record seven teams and over 150 registered players, our biggest carnival ever! It was particularly pleasing to once again have an over 35s men's team and the women's team. Whilst some results didn't go the way we would have liked we did have a fun week and in true Tassie fashion, helped the other teams out with filling in, timekeeping, and running water.

We had a huge achievement this year with Gail Dykes being elevated to legend status by the National body, the first lady to receive this honour. Congratulations to Gail, for achieving such a worthy accolade for all that she has done and continues to do.



We would also like to acknowledge the contribution made by AFL Tasmania and in particular Sally Donnelly for the running and the promotion of our southern domestic competition. Two new teams have expressed interest in joining our roster, and we are also working towards establishing a roster to provide our over 50s players with games on a regular basis.

AFL Masters TAS would like to thank our generous sponsors for their continued support over the last four years:

- Newman's Home Furnishings
- MMG Roseberry mine
- Country Club
- Landfall Angus

On a personal note, I would like to thank our committee who have worked incredibly hard to make Adelaide so enjoyable for all, our fantastic coaches who brought players together from all over the state, our Match Managers who were brilliant, and our trainers as always were the best in the business.

Bring on Maroochydoore 2023!

Andrew Scott

President - AFL Masters Tasmania (Inc)





Victorian Country President's Annual Report 2022

2022 will be remembered for many reasons in Vic Country Masters football, but most importantly for the first time since 2019 we got to play a full uninterrupted season **AND** attend a carnival. There's little better than that. After having put so much time and effort into protecting our clubs and their participants through 2 years of Covid, we could finally turn our attention to matters on field. Clubs put together strong registration numbers together despite a new system and while some weeks were a struggle with numbers, most clubs had solid years. Games were played in true Masters spirit, and there was little/no noise about on field issues. Travel is still an occasional issue, and we look to address it as best we can

To everyone involved in getting the clubs back onto the field, the Executives, committees, coaches, players, trainers, other volunteers and supporters I thank you all for your efforts. Through adversity you achieved so much, well done

For the women we also saw some incredible interest from QuickKick, however weather and geographical issues created a little havoc to the schedule. Covid also ensured a lot of the goods we needed to help deliver the program didn't arrive in time, which also had an impact. With some additional resources and a renewed effort to deliver Women's football programs across the state, I expect some real excitement building next year. As a result we expect to deliver a successful series of mini carnivals for Women in 2023, and a fully-fledged competition in 2024.



It was also an exciting finale to the year, with the opportunity to again compete at the National Carnival. We had good numbers in most age groups and all in all a successful carnival by our own measures. Having not competed for 2 years, it was fantastic to see the "Big V" meandering around

the grounds in Adelaide and a massive congratulations goes to Brenton and the SA organising team. Already our participants are booking out accommodation options across Maroochydore in preparation for next year. Tony Lovett's induction into the Hall of Fame, the Women's 35's premiership and the comradery shown by our group across the week were definitely the highlights of Adelaide 2022 and indeed the year as a whole

Off field we saw significant change. Brent Ali, Natalie Butler, Jason Field, Kevin Rigg, Kirsten Naylor and Felicity Munro were re-elected to the Executive, and we all quickly got to work to grow and improve our competition. Due to differing circumstances we received the resignations of Felicity Munro in February, Natalie Butler in March and Jason Field in July. I would like to thank them all for their efforts over recent years to support our competition and wish them all the best in their future endeavours. To lose such experience was hard to replace, however just when he thought he could run away Tony Lovett's work circumstances changed. Tony came back to support the Carnival organising, while Andrea McKenzie was seconded onto the Executive as Secretary. I thank everyone for their efforts throughout the year, and look forward to your ongoing support



In 2022 a large focus has been placed on the off-field improvements to the competition, engaging external consultants in sports management to undertake an audit of our systems. Off the back of a review the Executive implemented several new initiatives, formalised and delivered the Strategic Plan, and undertook reviews of both the Constitution and the structure of the Board. These reviews are progressing well and should be delivered early-mid 2023. The strong focus on improvement and forward thinking has also resulted in an increased number of volunteers willing to get involved.

2023 and beyond the future looks very exciting for Masters football in Country Victoria. Operational, financial, participation and Club development areas look strong, and I look forward to seeing everyone on the field again very soon

Brent Ali

President – Victorian Country Masters Australian Football Inc



Victorian Metropolitan President's Annual Report 2022

The impact of COVID-19 has been devastating for ours and many sports, however the League has emerged taking giant leaps forward despite the many and varied challenges that remain.

The new AFL Masters Victorian Metropolitan Board appointed in March has focused on consolidation in 2022, while building the platform for Vic Metro Masters to move forward strategically into a prosperous and sustainable future.

In May, Jennifer Pitson was appointed as General Manager, allowing the League to work more closely with affiliated clubs, officials, and key stakeholders to understand pain points and areas for improvement.

It was pleasing to be able to deliver a full season this year, albeit with participation challenges across the year. Witnessing the inaugural Women's competition and Over 50s Men's finals demonstrates strong engagement and growth opportunities for the competition.

From an operational point of view the 2022 Season had its ups and downs. The effects of COVID-19 continued to impact many Clubs' ability to field full teams. Add in harsh winter conditions and influenza and somehow the clubs managed to keep going.

The AFL's player registration system, PlayHQ, was introduced in 2022, which had its own challenges, it was great to see the system being adopted and the Season was played in full without too many issues.

This season, the Women's Advisory Committee made great steps towards developing a genuine pathway for women Masters' players, including the introduction of QuickKick by AFL Masters and Lightning Football. The inaugural Women's Festival of Football scheduled on Round 8 was a triumph. A special thank you to the Women's Advisory Committee and committed women's clubs and individuals who brought the festival to life.

Some special milestones were achieved in 2022, with Port Melbourne's Belinda Bowey reaching 400 games of women's AFL, and Geelong's Charlie Adornetto, an incredible 500 games, and countless matches umpired. A great testament to two incredibly passionate contributors to our game.

The League developed new strategic partnerships with S-Trend Sportswear and Top Notch Trophies this year providing quality apparel, merchandise and trophies exceeding the League's expectations. Thank you to both partners, we look forward to working with you in 2023 and beyond.