



## RGM ROUNDUP

It's pretty obvious but I love a good rack of lamb but there hasn't been too many better than the dish served to us at the AFL Victoria Country WorkSafe Game of the Month in Tatyoon a few weeks ago. Along with every other thing done on the day, it was perfect, enjoyable and had a great feel about it.

Sue Knight and her team at Tatyoon together with Cheryle Stapleton and her crew at Moyston-Willaura are to be congratulated for their magnificent efforts in organising an event of the highest order. In every sense of the word, this day had a 'community' feel about it. Locals worked their backsides off in preparation for the game and the results were obvious for all to see. All of the dignitaries from Melbourne, David Parkin included, commented on the day and how this was easily one of the best Game of the Months they had ever attended. Well done to both clubs on a terrific example of what country football and netball is all about.

Throughout the last couple of weeks I have begun the process of gathering feedback on the proposed framework to make community football clubs more sustainable. There are obviously a few technical questions being raised, and they will be passed on to the working party, but overall the feedback has been extremely positive. What I am finding is that there is an understanding that something has to be done and the responsibility has to be shared. Watching country football scoreboard on a Saturday night is evidence enough that some of our competitions across the state aren't as competitive as they need to be and clubs are hurting because of this. This framework isn't the silver bullet that will remedy every issue; however it will provide a baseline for clubs to work to and encourage spending within their means for the sustainability of not just the club, but the players, administrators and most importantly, the volunteers.

On the field there has been some exciting developments over the past few weeks. The McDonalds regional Cup has begun with four teams from South West, Hampden, Wimmera and Ballarat regions taking part in trial game at Ararat over two weeks. These games will be used to select those players who will take part in the V-Line under-15 championships to be held in Gippsland later this year. As is always the case, players have thoroughly enjoyed this series of matches and we have seen some terrific play. A real positive has been a huge increase in girls from throughout the region putting their hand up to try out for the girls' under-15 squad, the Western Rebels. Girls' football is a huge opportunity in our region and finally the hard work of Alan Thompson, Jock Whiting, Alicia Drew, and Peter Allen is reaping some rewards. We look forward to seeing this continued growth and a great team represent our region at the championships.

Finally I would like to offer the condolences of the Commission to the family and friends of Philip Walsh after his tragic passing last week. Philip is a Hamilton local and represented the Hamilton Football Club before moving to Collingwood in the early 1980s. While it has been a long time since



he has called this part of Australia home, many locals are extremely proud of what Philip was able to achieve in football and his passing will have a profound effect on football across the country. Congratulations to the Hamilton Kangaroos and Portland Football Netball Clubs on the way they recognised Philip's contribution during their games on Saturday.

Our Commissioners and Football Development Staff are only too happy to help you if you have an issue you think we can assist you with. Please make yourself known to myself or the Commissioners when you see us around the district or feel free to call me on 0429 955 669 if you would like to discuss anything at all.

Good luck for the next month of football.

**LACHY PATTERSON**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lachy Patterson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

AFL Western District - Region General Manager