



The World Master's Games

October 5 to 12 – when 2175 mature age softballers from Australia and around the world came to Melbourne to play.....

What an exciting week it was, but, at the same time, it was one of the hardest weeks that the umpiring management team has ever had.

The statistics:

- 156 teams participated
- 16 and sometimes 18 diamonds were needed at each time slot
- games commenced at 8.30am
- duration of games were 1hour 15mins
- 140 plus umpires serviced nearly 700 games at the two venues at Knox and Waverley.

There is no doubt that it was a logistical nightmare and only for the talents of the UICs and DUICs, Toulia Connolly [Knox], Tricia Sibraa [Waverley], Alan McAuliffe [Knox and AI's paddock] and John McAuliffe [Waverley and Knox], was chaos averted. All credit also to the participating umpires as they went about their duties calmly and efficiently.

What was pleasing about this event was the opportunity for so many of our umpires from all levels to work with other umpires that ordinarily would not be possible, given our country's geography. Many times I commented on Level combinations on the way to their diamonds and everyone with big smiles on their faces on the way back.

One quote from the week was that the **World Masters Games had nothing to do with the Umpire Program**. How very, very wrong can you be, it has everything to do with the Umpire Program - in two different ways.

Firstly, over the eight days senior umpires from around the country and from overseas worked with junior umpires; junior umpires from one State worked with other junior umpires from other States; in fact, there are a myriad of combinations when you think about it. All the while each umpire having the opportunity to share experiences and practical advice on officiating which goes a long way to understanding what makes umpiring so special.

Margo's Memo



Secondly, at any tournament where softball is played the Umpire Program is on show and so are individual umpires, especially senior umpires, they are the role models for the junior umpires. The Umpires' Code of Conduct does not exclude particular tournaments nor does it exclude or absolve particular umpires from their responsibilities of upholding the ethics of the softball umpire. So, it is true that you are an umpire 24/7 – on and off the park.

I know that many umpires will have fond memories of their time spent at the World Master's softball in Melbourne, and many will remember specifically with whom they worked for a long time. The number of emails I have received about umpiring at the World Master's from enthusiastic junior umpires certainly confirms this will be the case. I hope their experience spurs them on to greater heights in the future.

My thanks to every umpire, both senior and junior, who participated in the softball component at the World Master's Games it was great to see so many of you together in one place, having fun.

Margo.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT OUR NATIONAL DIRECTOR, MARGO KOSKELANIEN WAS THE ISF TECHNICAL DELEGATE AT THE WORLD MASTERS GAMES, A DUTY SHE PERFORMED ADMIRALY CONSIDERING THE NUMBER OF ENQUIRES FROM MANY.

Margo's work with the Russian Teapots was also first class and she portrayed the true meaning of comradeship and was a great ambassador to the sport of Softball with our international friends.

What in this issue of BNOL

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Alan McAuliffe is honoured with ASF Life Membership

Alan McAuliffe was honoured with Life Membership of the Australian Softball Federation at the annual Council meeting held in Canberra earlier this month.

Alan 'Big Al' is one of the nice guys and true ambassadors of this sport and is the first male to receive Life Membership of the Australian Softball Federation.

From his humble beginning in the Sport of Softball, Alan McAuliffe has earned the respect of many both on and off the sporting arena. His knowledge of the game and his fantastic record as an officiator is second to none over the past 40 years.

Alan has always given his time freely to anyone who asks and has passed on a wealth of knowledge to many umpires throughout the world.

Earlier this year Alan was also awarded Life Membership of the South Australian Softball Association for outstanding service over four decades. Well Done Al!

(Alan's resume appeared in BNOL earlier this year) (More about Big Al - Page 6)

Matt Gowty wins Umpire of the Year Award

Matt Gowty is this year's recipient of the Vivienne Triplett—Umpire of the Year Award, which was presented at the ASF Awards of Excellence Awards night in Canberra recently.

Matt has had a distinguished National and international career as an umpire which was highlighted by his appointment to the 2002 Open Women's World Series in Canada this year.

This year Matt also received a Level 8 accreditation. In what has been a very busy career as an umpire some of the highlights are four World Series' 1997 Junior Boys; 2000 Senior Men; 2001 Junior Boys and 2002 Senior Women.

The Vivienne Triplett Umpire of the Year Award is open to all umpires within Australia with nomination forms available through the web site and this publication.

This year there were four finalists in the Vivienne Triplett—Umpire of the Year Award, Lyn Bishop (Victoria), Matt Gowty (New South Wales), Andrew Rindfleish (New South Wales) and Tricia Sibraa (Queensland).

Matt joins previous winners of this award— Margo Koskelainen (1995), Alan McAuliffe (1996), Alan McAuliffe (1997), Ken Culpitt (1998), Toulou Connolly (1999), Margo Koskelainen (2000) and John McAuliffe (2001).



Rules Challenge

Big Al's Tester

Is it 'Obstruction' or 'Interference'?

B1 hits a high fly ball. F1 attempts to catch the ball but drops it. In the process of chasing down the dropped ball, F1 unintentionally contacts B1. F1 recovers the ball, and as a result of being knocked off balance by the contact from F1, B1 is tagged out before reaching 1st base. (B1 would easily have made 1st base had the contact not occurred). **THIS IS OBSTRUCTION!**

A fielder only has the right of way when attempting to field a batted ball; at all other times the batter-runner or runner has the right of way.

In the above scenario, the fielder has had the opportunity to field the batted ball (*attempts to catch the ball but drops it*), so now he is attempting to recover an errored ball, NOT a batted ball, thereby giving the batter-runner the right of way. It does not matter whether the contact was intentional or not - the fact is F1 has impeded B1 while

- (a) not in the act of fielding the batted ball, or
- (b) not in possession of the ball (the only other time a fielder may have the right of way is when he has the ball in his possession).

In this case, the umpire should declare a Dead Ball at the time the tag was made and award B1 the base he would have made had the obstruction not occurred (in this instance - first base). Rule 8 Section 7b of the Official Rules of Softball covers the above situation.

WA Umpires Website up and running

Hi Everyone,
I am pleased to announce the launch of the new WA State Umpiring Body website, located at <http://waumpires.softball.org.au/> .

The site provides the WASUB with the ability to communicate to all umpires in WA. The aim is to have the site housing all of the relevant information that any softball umpire should need – either directly or by providing relevant links. I strongly encourage you to visit the site regularly.

Also, should you have any news articles, resources or items then please submit them to be posted up on the site. Thanks must go to Jason Carter and Rob Harris, who have spent the time to develop the site up until now.

See you on the diamond—Warren Duff—WA State Director of Umpiring

2002 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TOUR

with Matt Gowty

When I was first asked in October 2001, “Are you available to go to next year’s Womens World Championship?”, the initial reaction is to scream out “ABSOLUTELY!!!”. Then the questions start floating through my mind:

“When is it?

Do I have enough leave?

Can I afford it?

I thought ???????? would be going?

Will my new Commanding Officer let me go?

Will I be getting back divorced?”

Eventually I came out with “I’d love to go, but there are a few people I have to check with first.”

Most of the questions were quickly answered, including my wife Margaret promising Margo that I would not be returning to a divorce. The only stumbling block that remained was that the Air Force had transferred me from Melbourne to Newcastle in January of 2002 and, just how should I ask my future Commanding Officer for six weeks leave to travel overseas to umpire softball. Fortunately he was receptive to the idea and I was given permission to go “subject to service requirements”, which roughly means “as long as we are not at war.”

Seven short months later, I joined the team in Sydney for a farewell dinner before we headed to Hawaii for the first leg of the tour, the US Cup.



After arriving at Honolulu Airport in the early hours of the morning we headed to our hotel in Waikiki. The hotel was perfectly located being 10 minutes drive from the ballpark at the University of Hawaii, a short walk to many restaurants and only 5 minutes walk to Waikiki beach, which was to be the location for most of the fitness and recovery sessions.

I got to meet most of the crew the night before the tournament at the umpire meeting, where I was soon told there would be a lot of changes to rules and mechanics for the tournament. Fortunately, all these changes were to bring the Americans in line with ISF practices and would have been familiar to most Australians. The next surprise was that I was asked to wear ASA uniform for the tournament, so that all the umpires would look alike.

When I arrived at the ballpark the next day, I did as most umpires would, I went searching for the change room and the other umpires. The change room was perfectly suited to local condition, being a few benches arranged under the bleachers with a bit of hanging space. The Hawaiian reputation for excellent hospitality was certainly lived up to. Gary Shiraishi, ASA Hawaii UIC, and his local umpires



Kellie Hardie throws to Japanese batter

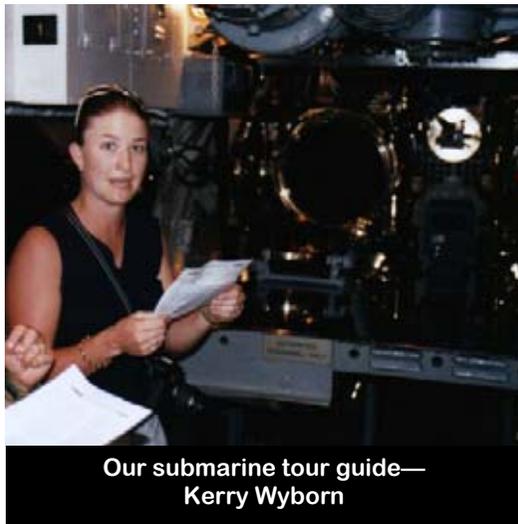
ensured that the entire crew’s needs were catered for, including meals, transport and socialising. Many of the Hawaiian umpires expressed an interest in visiting Australia to umpire and made it clear that any Australian umpires were welcome to visit.

The tournament itself was an excellent standard and all the umpires were easy to work and talk with. Discussions during the week reminded me how different the ASA and Australian umpiring programs are, particularly in the number of registered umpire, the quantity and quality of games available and the payment of umpires. While you may think they Americans “have it all”, top Australian umpires proportionally have many more opportunities when it comes to umpiring at National Championships, umpiring international teams and travelling overseas.

After the tournament I was lucky enough to spend a day sight seeing with James Hodgkinson, Fiona Hanes, Sandra Allen and Kerry Wyborn. With James as driver, and me as navigator we braved the Honolulu freeways and found our way to Pearl Harbour. Having seen movies and read books about the attack on Pearl Harbour, it was amazing to visit the USS Arizona memorial, shuffle through a very cramped submarine and walk the decks of the



USS Arizona Memorial from
The USS Missouri



Our submarine tour guide—
Kerry Wyborn

battleship USS Missouri. Next stop was Waimea Bay, which has a reputation as a great surf beach, but only one month a year. James tried the rock jumping, but the players and I decided injuries at this stage of the tour would not be popular. After a long day, the team headed out to catch the midnight flight to Vancouver for the second part of the tour, the Canada Cup.

While the US Cup was a great start to the tour, the Canada Cup was a complete change of pace in almost every respect. Canada Cup was played at the Softball City, a four diamond complex with a seating capacity of approximately 8500. There were almost 50 teams in three tournaments, (Womens, U/19 Women and Special Olympics) with over 40 umpires.

For my part, I worked the Womens tournament of 24 teams with 11 other umpires (all ISF certified) from 6 different countries including USA, Canada, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa and Chinese Taipei. Any lack of match practice was quickly brushed aside with 21 games over the nine days of the



tournament.

Canada Cup is a huge event, with diamonds on the go from early in the morning until late at night (twice I finished at 2 am and had to front for a 9am game the next day) with large crowds most nights contributing to a total attendance in excess of 100,000. Apart from the great softball, the host committee made sure there was plenty of entertainment with Home Run and Base Running contests for the players and hot dog eating contests and 50/50s for the fans. To cap off the week there was an appearance by the 'famous' San Diego Chicken during the Grand Final.



On the plate—
South Africa v Bloomington Lady Hearts



2002 Canada Cup Grand Final Crew
Matt Gowty (3B), Gianluca Magnani (Italy)(2B), Vincent Maoeng (South Africa)(P),
Chris Lee (Canada)(1B)

Next Month: The World Championship

Busy Time for WA Umpires

The past two months have been extremely busy for all umpires in Western Australia – both on and off the diamond. Several sets of winter finals were completed with the summer season now well into full swing.

Examiner's Clinic

An **Examiners Clinic** was held on Saturday, August 31 at Dale Districts (Langford) which was attended by 9 umpires.

Presented by Peter Baker and assisted by Graham Bancroft, the clinic aimed to provide attendees with the information (both theory and practical) required to examine candidates at their practical examinations.

The event was well run and the venue was excellent. All those who attended received a certificate of attendance. Thank you to those who organised the food and facilities - they were very much appreciated.

Jason Carter

WA Sports Official of the Year Award

Congratulations to Graham Bancroft, who has been nominated for the WA Sports Official of the Year Award.

The **Sports Officials Awards** were established in 1999 to recognise and reward an official from each sport for their outstanding contribution to sport in Western Australia.

Each sport has the opportunity to nominate their Sports Official of the Year and all nominees are acknowledged in front of their peers from all sports.

Graham is a level 6 umpire who has been umpiring for many years now at State League, SEMSA and Dale competitions. More recently, Graham has taken on the role as State Examining Officer.

Best of luck and well done Graham!

Quote: Talent will overcome hard work, but when the talented work hard, they can overcome anything.

North West Women's Championships

Warren Duff (State Director of Umpiring) attended the Northwest Women's Softball Championships held in Port Hedland, which is approximately 1800 kilometers north of Perth. The Port Hedland Softball Association proved to be exceptional hosts for this annual event, by providing excellent facilities and accommodation.

Barrie Sergeant (Umpire in Charge) was assisted by
John Lillywhite
Shane Jameson
Les Bracken
Bob Neville
Rose Varis
Dona Nordman
Warren Duff (State Director of Umpiring)

Congratulations to Barry Sergeant (plate) John Lillywhite (First base) and Shane Jameson (Third base) who all umpired in the grand final, won by Karratha.

Warren assisted with games in what were quite hot conditions, and provided an update to the various changes in WA Softball Umpiring Administration.

Western Fastpitch State League

October marked the start of the 2002/2003 Western Fastpitch League. A small but enthusiastic group of umpires are involved in this extremely competitive 8 team event over the next 5 months.

The event also provides the opportunity for metropolitan umpires to be assessed for their Level 3 or 4 accreditation.

State Umpiring Body Appointments

Completing the WA State Umpiring Body, as Administration Officer, is Jason Carter. Jason has extensive administration experience and brings with him a lot of enthusiasm. Welcome aboard Jason.

2002 Under 19 Men's Selection Tournament by Jason Carter

The weekend of October 6 and 7 saw the running of this year's Under 19 Men's Selection Tournament at Mirrabooka. U19 Men's State Coach Gary Butler approached Warren Duff (SDU) to arrange umpires for the two days.

Umpiring over the weekend were Warren Duff, John Mooy, Wayne McDonnell, Jason Carter, Rob Harris, Kathy Garbutt and Bill Kilmurray. Conditions were sometimes difficult with very wet and windy conditions prevailing but all games were successfully completed.

Four teams were fielded consisting of the best U19 men in the State who were available for selection. Games were 7 innings or 2 hours and all current rules were enforced. Of particular note was the difficulty for the pitchers to pause for 2 seconds before the windup. We came down fairly hard on them though and they were much better by the end of the tournament.

It was a terrific means for umpires to show their support for the state and all time was donated freely. All umpires were treated to lunch and a drink and we were very pleased to be able to be a part of the tournament. Of course it was also good training for us!

Gary was extremely happy with the support he received from the umpires and the high standard with which games were officiated. On behalf of the WA Softball Umpires Body, thank you to those umpires who donated their time and "Well done"!

World Masters Games

Travelling from WA to the World Masters were Peter Baker, Leah Ucich, Bob Woodcock, Dale Carter, Pauline Carter, Leigh Beswick. Congratulations to all involved in this event.

WA Softball Umpiring Body Website

The WASUB would like all WA umpiring associations to contribute articles and photo's to the SUB website (<http://waumpires.softball.org.au>) so we can let everyone in the state know what's happening out there. Let us know of your events and activities and we can post appropriate articles for all in the state to see and possibly include them in BNOL.

All articles and photo's can be emailed to Jason Carter at jason@newcrest.com.au.

Upcoming Basic Umpiring Clinic

Peter Richardson, State Education and Training Coordinator will be conducting a basic umpiring clinic. All people interested in softball umpiring are encouraged to attend.

Time: 9:00am – 12:00 noon

Date: Saturday, November 9, 2002

Venue: Hossack Reserve, Langford

This is a no cost event.

For further information, please contact Warren Duff on 041 793 8468 or warrenduff@iprimus.com.au

Camp "Chuck it to Me"

A group of enthusiastic country boys – aged 10 to 14 – attended the 2002 Camp Chuck it to Me. Warren Duff spent a morning with the boys, going through basic rules and basic umpiring positions and mechanics.

Warren with the assistance of Jason Carter then umpired the boys in a game versus a team of Perth kids. The game was played in excellent spirit and reinforced many of the ideas and rules previously taught.



This is what I've worked for, that is why I am here. There is no turning back, there is no fear.

A Classic Moment

There were so many 'Classic Moments' at the recent World Masters Games in Melbourne, but this could be one of only very few that were captured on camera.

International Development Squad member Sue Itzstien (left) shares a funny moment with Victoria Level 2 umpire, Stacey Evans during a game at Knox.

The Games gave so many junior umpires the opportunity to work with others umpires from around Australia as well as other countries.

Stacey Evans, one of Victoria's up-and-coming umpires had a great time in Melbourne.

NT BLUES SHOW VERSATILITY! PARTY ANIMALS! LIZARD FANS!

Almost all the Darwin umpires celebrated the end of the Dry Season comp with another "spa" party. As the photo shows a good time was had by all!

The competition finished on September 14 with the grand finals in all grades being played. The "blues" managed to cover all games and the Men's and Women's A Grade Grand Finals were excellent games.

The Men's umpires were Margaret Lee (P) and Derek Quong whilst the A Grade Women's umpires were Derek Quong (P), Margaret Lee and Yvonne Newman.

Jenni Byrnes played the Under 14s, Adam Griffith the Under 16s, Ian Aiken C Grade, Ian Lee B Grade and Tony Barnes A Res.

At the Darwin Association Presentation night Yvonne Newman won the award for "Umpire of the Year" and well deserved it was too.

Margaret Lee travelled to Alice Springs in between the Preliminary Finals and the Grand Finals to officiate at the Australian Primary Softball Exchange.

There were six States and Territories participating and a good standard of competition was played. Umpires for the Exchange were Cathie Allen, Steve Trindle, Marg Lee (NT) along with Junior umpire Meegan Commane from NSW who did an excellent job.

High School students filled in with base umpiring and did a great job. As you can see from the photo the famous (infamous) frill necked lizards also attended.

David Binder flew to Kununurra to umpire their Junior Round Robin Competition and also the Womens' Grand Final. As always he was well looked after by Kununurra. He then went to Melbourne to umpire at the World's Masters.

The rest of the "Blues" are having a short break before heading to the Masters in Alice to officiate. We leave on Thursday October 19 and won't be back until the end of the month. Then the Men's Wet Season competition is due to start! No rest for some!!!!

Marg Lee—Northern Territory State Director of Umpiring

**Quote: Challenges can be stepping stones or stumbling blocks.
It's all in your perspective.**

Tupperware

If you are thinking of doing some Christmas Shopping, why not give a gift that has a Lifetime guarantee..... Tupperware.

But it's the same old story, Where do you find a Tupperware Dealer when you need one?

The answer is simple. Just email mtoft@ozemail.com.au and they will be able to send you the latest catalogue and monthly specials listing.

Mark and Margaret Toft are Tupperware Managers in Toowoomba, Queensland and are eager to assist in any way.

South East Queensland Umpires can book demonstrations by just giving them a call on (07) 4634 9068 or 0401 028 163



Life's tough in the spa:
Some of the Northern Territory umpires enjoying a hard day at the office.

We can only assume that the spa waters in Northern Territory are a lot cooler than that of the southern States.

Party On Guys!

Teaching the locals to officiate in the Alice:

No this is not the new uniform for Blues in the Alice.

Pictured (Left) - Marg, Cathie, Megan and some of the Junior umpires along with Kingi & Clammi the Frill necked Lizards.



The Wooden Bowl

I guarantee you will remember the tale of the Wooden Bowl tomorrow, a week from now, a month from now, a year from now.

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered.

The family ate together at the table. But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor.

When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth. The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. We must do something about Grandfather, said the son. I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor.

So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner.

Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl. When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction, sometime he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food.

The four-year-old watched it all in silence. One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, What are you making? Just as sweetly, the boy responded, Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food in when I grow up.

The four-year-old smiled and went back to work. The words so struck the parents so that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done.

That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled.

ALAN McAULIFFE - Life Member Australian Softball Federation

Alan's involvement with Softball has continued for more than 40 years with his first attempt at gaining his National umpiring badge in 1969 being unsuccessful. Such is the courage of this man that he returned to the Nationals as a candidate in 1970 and 1971 at his own expense and was again unsuccessful.

Turning his attention to scoring Alan was involved in 6 National Championships and 3 International Tournaments including 2 Women's World Championships. Alan was also instrumental in the production of the first Scoring Manual for Softball Scorers and remains a Level 4 scorer.

After spending 15 years umpiring in local Association and State Championships in South Australia, in 1987 Alan returned to the Nationals as an umpire gaining his Level 5 and Level 6 within 3 months.

Alan served as State Deputy Director of Umpiring from 1974 – 1979 & as State Director of Umpiring from 1988 – 1993.

Alan has umpired at Australian Championships, involved in 2 or more Championships each year, since 1987 as an umpire, examiner or TCU. Alan has umpired in excess of 350 games at National Championships and approximately 200 games at International level including 3 World Championships 1990, 1991 and 1994, 3 South Pacific Classics 1989, 1994 & 2002 and various International Tournaments in Australia and overseas. Alan was the first Australian Umpire to be appointed to officiate at a Summer Olympic Games at Atlanta in 1996.

Appointed to numerous umpire development clinics as a lecturer, Alan has been a presenter at 3 International Umpire Development Clinics in Australia, as well as numerous basic, intermediate and advanced Umpiring Clinics in South Australia and interstate.

A member of the National Umpiring Committee since 1993 Alan has been responsible for the setting, marking and statistical analyse for the National Umpires Exam. Alan became the official Rules Interpreter in 2001 and has this year worked on the layout, presentation and proof-reading of the Australian Softball Rulebook. Alan has also been responsible for the publication of an Australian Slow-Pitch Rulebook.

In addition Alan is responsible for answering all umpiring situation questions that are sent to the ASF Umpiring web site.

ISF has appointed Alan to numerous umpire clinics in the South East Asia Pacific region and he has been appointed Technical Delegate to 2 South East Asian Games, 2 Asian Games and 3 Micronesian Games most of which have required him to present a training clinic in the lead up to the tournaments.

Queensland Blues working hard for the Program **QUEENSLAND**

Now that the World Masters Games are over Queensland umpires have been able to do a lot more on the diamonds.

Recently Queensland Blues officiated at the Queensland Cup (Women) with a great deal of success. The tournament gave a number of National umpires and Level 5 candidates an opportunity to see the standard of play. Some candidates do not get the opportunity to see the best of the best in tournament conditions.

The Championship game was officiated by Darren Sibraa, Ron Trow and Ian Bunston.

The Open Women's Championships saw Robyn Pittman, Mick Gorman and Danny Griffiths officiate the Championship Game while Ian Bunston, Steve Gutteridge and Maxine Bullion umpire the President's Cup Final.

Congratulations to the following umpires who have achieved a higher at recent State Championships.

Level 3 - David Casey (Wynnum), Spence Williams (Bundaberg), Bill Buckley (Bundaberg), Andrew Cameron (Noosa).

Level 2 - Sally Crawford (Caboolture)

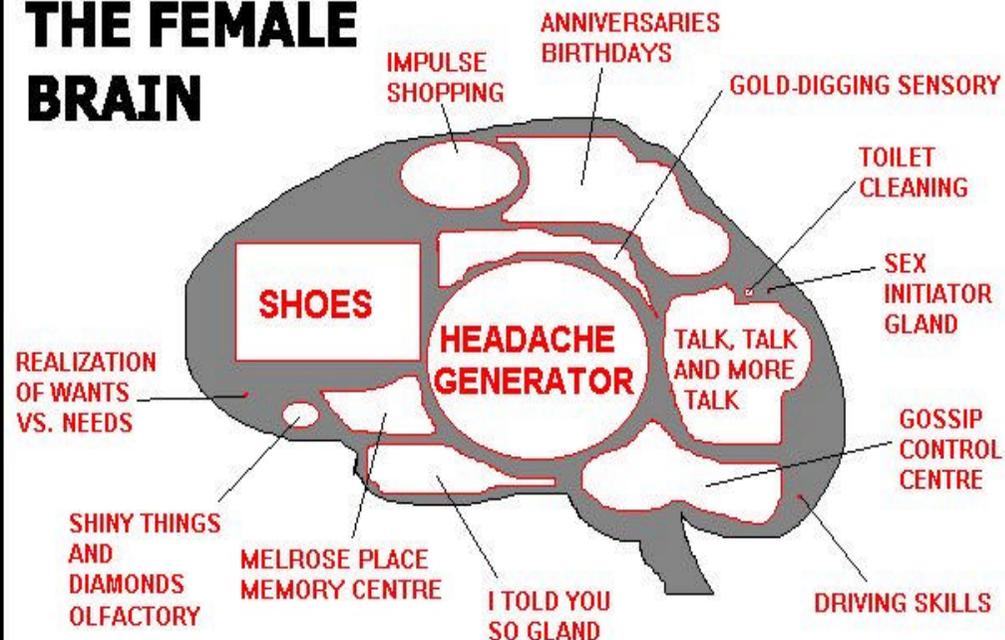
Level 1 - Wayne Williams (Logan), Jeff Lewis (Logan), Vicki Anne Hailstone (Logan)

The Queensland Umpiring Committee have scheduled Introduction and Level 1 umpiring clinics for a number of Associations over the next three months.

Centres to be visited include, Ipswich, Maryborough, Noosa, Hervey Bay and Rockhampton. State Training Officer, Frank Thomas and selected senior umpires will conduct these clinics.

Finally the Queensland Umpires' Forum will be held at the Virginia Palms Convention Centre on the 9th and 10 of November. Umpiring Directors from all District Associations, along with the members of the Queensland Umpiring Committee will attend the 2-day seminar.

THE FEMALE BRAIN



FOOTNOTE: The "Put Oil into the Car" and "Be Quite During the Game" glands are active only when the "SHINY THINGS AND DIAMONDS" OLFactory has been satisfied or when there is a shoe sale.



Tofty at Knox Park

To umpire at Knox Park during the World Masters Games was a true experience.

The small park which was a 15 minute walk from the main park and was affectionately known as Big Al's Park.

You see, Big Al was the UIC at Knox Park where there were two diamonds set up on most days.

Pictured: Mark Toft at the plate in the game between Hard Knox and the Silver Medalists in the B Men division the Ramblers from Auckland.