



## The O.K. Corral had nothing on the Macarthur Shootout

At this point in time I am still a rookie when it comes to great tournament at which to umpire. But I am pleased to say that recently I experienced the thrill to umpire at the best tournament in my career.

The Macarthur Shootout held at the Macarthur and District Softball Association grounds at Camden in Sydney's west, in my eyes is a definite winner.

The Tournament Director, Mark Long (who was on this year's winning team) and his hard working committee produced a tournament which would rival any in Australia.

The week before the tournament Sydney was dumped on in a big way with the rains (mind you a couple of weeks too late to put out the bushfires), but the tournament went on.

Some diamonds were unplayable on the first two days but the grounds staff virtually worked around the clock to have them ready for the finals on day three. An extraordinary effort.

The workers and canteen staff were a pleasure to work with and are true ambassadors of our sport with their friendly nature and willingness to assist in any way possible.

Oh! This is a umpiring magazine, I nearly forgot. Well the umpiring crew were just amazing. I have had the privilege to work with most of the National umpires at different tournament over the years and it was again a pleasure to do it again at Macarthur.

The other Blue's (Slimes) from New South Wales were also excellent to work with and it made the whole weekend a real worthwhile experience.

I will explain the Slimes comment to those who did not see the November Edition of BNOL. The NSW umpiring committee have introduced a Lime Green shirt for State League games and we wore those shirts during the Shootout. The sponsor of the NSWUA was very much impressed when he saw me with one on as I was like a walking billboard for his company.

There are so many things to say about a tournament like Macarthur. They are, Great venue, Great standard of play, Great umpiring crew, Great time. Well I suppose there is only one word that really describes it and that's **GREAT**. Well done!!!!!!! **M.G.T.**



## Australia Day... What did it mean for you?

For some of us, it was a day for counting our many (often taken for granted) blessings. The biggest blessing is living in this great country.

Most of us have never had to endure, wars, hunger, religious or political intimidation. Most of our parents can't say the same. In fact, more than 80% of the world's population can't...and probably never will.

As such, it is a great time, especially in the dawn of the New Year, to count blessings and assess how you can make a positive difference in the world.

So, when you are feeling a bit down, as Monty Python said...regardless of your challenges..."always look on the bright side of life"...

Quote:

"When I hear someone complain "life is tough"...I always say, compared to what!? "

### DATES TO REMEMBER

March 2 - Tofty's Birthday

March 2 - ASF Board Meeting

March 10-16 - Open Men's Nationals - Perth

April - SOUTH PACIFIC CLASSIC - Perth

August - JAPAN CUP - Japan

### Wanted

Full time position.  
Experienced print  
journalist. Will relocate  
to any State.  
[mtoft@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mtoft@ozemail.com.au)

Genuine request!!!!!!

### Australian Masters Championship - Easter 2002

Keilor Park Association is hosting the Australian Masters Championships and all Umpires are welcome. If you know of any umpires that would like to umpire at this event, perhaps you could suggest they contact Lindsay Whitehead in the first instance.

[Lin\\_P\\_Whitehead@allegiance.com.au](mailto:Lin_P_Whitehead@allegiance.com.au)

Larner .....  
the best  
Medicine



There is al-  
ways time  
to laugh!

How much  
DOES a brain cost?

In the hospital the relatives gathered in the waiting room, where their family member lay gravely ill. Finally, the doctor came in looking tired and somber.

"I'm afraid I'm the bearer of bad news," he said as he surveyed the worried faces.

"The only hope left for your loved one at this time is a brain transplant.

It's an experimental procedure, semi-risky and you will have to pay for the brain yourselves."

The family members sat silent as they absorbed the news. After a great length of time, someone asked, "Well, how much does a brain cost?"

The doctor quickly responded, "\$5,000 for a male brain, and \$200 for a female brain."

The moment turned awkward. Men in the room tried not to smile, avoiding eye contact with the women, but some actually smirked.

A man, unable to control his curiosity, blurted out the question everyone wanted to ask, "Why is the male brain so much more?"

The doctor smiled and said, "It's just standard pricing procedure. We have to mark down the price of the female brains, because they've actually been used."

**WOMEN 1 - MEN 0**

### Victorian Masters Championship June 2002

The Victorian Masters Championship will be held, at Keilor Park Association.

Umpires who would like to umpire at this event are welcome to contact Lindsay Whitehead.

Lin\_P\_Whitehead@allegiance.com.au



Rules Challenge

# Big Al's Tester

A batter enters the box with a legal bat but holds onto it upside down, i.e. holds onto the barrel end and swings the handle. If he does this and hits the ball, is this a legal hit? If it is not a legal hit, what would be the ruling?

Answer

The batter may not attempt to hit the ball while holding the barrel end of the bat. While there is no specific rule to cover this situation, the following should assist you in handling this matter.

Rule 3 Section 1j of the Official Playing Rules states "the bat shall have a safety grip of cork, tape (no smooth, plastic type) or composition material. This safety grip shall not be less than 25.4cm (10 inches) long and shall not extend more than 38.1cm (15 inches) from the small end of the bat." The operative words are "safety grip" and imply that the bat may only be held, by this grip, at the small end of the bat - NOT THE LARGE END.

The large end does not have a "safety grip" as such; therefore, if the batter was to hold this end, two things occur: The safety factor, whereby the grip acts to prevent the bat from slipping from the hand during the swing, is compromised, and if the batter hits the ball, contact would be made with the small end of the bat, resulting in contact being made illegally by a "foreign substance", i.e. the safety grip. (Rule 3 Section 1h states the bat shall not have, among other things, any form of exterior fastening that would present a hazard). The hitting surface must be SMOOTH (Rule 3 Section 1d refers). The batter would be declared OUT for using an Illegal Bat.

An umpire's Duty of Care requires that the game is played within the spirit of the rules; holding the bat by the barrel end is not only outside the spirit of the rules but is also extremely dangerous.

Consider the consequences if you allowed the batter to use the bat in this manner! If the bat slips from the hand during the swing and injures any person, YOU may be liable to serious litigation for failure to apply your Duty of Care!

Endeavour to use preventative umpiring (i.e. stop it before it happens) should any batter attempt to use a bat in this manner. This is done by calling "TIME" and requesting the batter to use the bat in the manner for which it is designed.

If he fails to do so, you may then EJECT the player from the game for failing to comply with an umpire's direction. Rule 10 Section 1, as follows, supports this action. "Umpires have the power to order a player, coach, captain or manager to do, or omit to do, any act which, in their judgement, is necessary to give force and effect to one or all of these rules and to inflict penalties as herein prescribed. The plate umpire shall have the authority to make decisions on any situations not specifically covered in the rules."

## International Development Clinic 2001 with Leigh Evans.

It's July 2001, arriving home from work to mail on the kitchen counter. A letter addressed to Leigh Evans, Australian Softball Federation on the envelope. Could it be? The squad was being picked this year. Apprehension, nervousness and excitement. The letter from Margo Koskelainen started with, on behalf of the National Umpiring Committee and Softball Australia, I have pleasure in extending an invitation to join the 2002 International Development Squad. The purpose of the Squad is to prepare umpires for possible ISF accreditation and international play including World Championships.

Ten Australian and five New Zealand umpires were selected. We flew into Canberra on **New Year's Eve** (the quietest New Years I've had for many years I can tell you). The AIS live-in accommodation I had, was bunk style shared with Crowie (David Crowe) and Shepo (Darrell Shephard). Meals were on site at the cafeteria and I might say the food was healthy and tasted good.

The first session was held New Years Eve at 7.30pm and each long day following started around 8.00am and finished around 8.00pm. Presenters were people like Margo, Alan Mc Auliffe (Olympic Umpire), Ken Culpitt, Lesley Steedman, and Vivian Triplett. I was pretty much in ore of the calibre of the lectures and their achievements. Guest presenters included Erszi from Pace Learning and Clark, Roz and Michelle all from the AIS. They lectured on Sports Psychology, Injury prevention and nutrition.

The objective of the clinic was to develop people, who will understand, represent and are committed to actively support the National Umpire Program, develop umpires for International umpiring commitments and also prepare possible future examiners and UIC's.

It was designed to give us an experience that provided each participant with a greater appreciation of varied aspects of softball and officiating and also to develop goals and improvement plans, improve interpersonal skills and increase the knowledge of umpires in relation to the National and International environment.

Team building was on the agenda as was evaluating others and of course self-evaluation. Discussion and importance was placed on issues such as risk management, UIC responsibilities, and also the difficult and mammoth task of the allocation of umpires to games.

Prevention of injuries starts with nutrition, fitness and stretching. The sound of moans and groans from the crew as Roz Penfold from the AIS took us through suggested stretching exercises was amusing.

ATTITUDE. Who's got Attitude! Sorry, Attitude in all forms not just bad was a very interesting lecture from Big Al. He taught us that attitude was a frame of mind, an out-

look, demeanor, and perspective. Attitude good and bad affects the people around us. Successful people are not afraid to fail.

Communication skills, complaint handling, defusing difficult situations, dealing with players and coaches, and of course being a representative and ambassador of Softball Australia and your country when away, was an important part of proceedings and was clearly spelt out to us all.

Psychology of umpire performance, how to share our thoughts and feelings with each other, goal setting, action planning and measuring our own progress was taught to us instead of the usual rules, mechanics and positioning.

Probably one of the best sessions for me was the day-long, hands on presentation from Erszi Suranyi. She covered interpersonal skills, conflict management and personality, "Going META". She used the Myers Briggs Questionnaire to define extroverts, introverts, intuitive, sensing, thinking, feeling, judging and perceiving type personalities.

Part of her props were video, chocolate, candy, colored paper, textas, puzzles, music, sultanas and oh yeah, reading material and assessments. She used juggling balls as a wake up, focus and to keep concentration, however personally I think she had that covered. On a serious note before I went to the AIS I could not juggle even one ball, but I'm sure if you ask any of the attendees to the AIS this year, they will give you a display.

Denise Culpitt was one of best, however I do wonder if she has learnt to juggle without walking off to the right. (This seems to be a problem when you walk into a wall or a door that is not open). Must suggest making it compulsory for all teams to supply 3 balls from now on to juggle before a game.

Itsy (Sue) decided not to bother with juggling, however next time you run into her ask about her balloon....? She picked it up at the opening dinner, it seemed to go everywhere with us, funny but no one else could see it, but guess you had to be there?

Talking about being there, Debbie Keogh was named Dibi by our neighbours from across the Tasman, George became George of the Jungle, and Crowie well he just stayed the extrovert. We also went on to the Open Women's National Championship in Canberra and trialed a new 4 man system, the umpire at second is often refereed to as the rabbit, so of course Stuart from N.Z. became known as Rabbit Stu.

I feel so humble to be part of this International clinic/squad. The friends that I already had and the friends that I have newly made have come to be more like partners and the bond that was made by all the Aussies and Kiwis will go on for a long time to come. It seems that a long-term goal that I once had now has become a milestone, and the rest is in front of me and the rest of the squad.

## The Long Road Back

While still enjoying my retirement, I was approached to do a team duty for the recent semi-finals.

Remembering those far off days the words "pre-game preparation" came into my mind. As such I started to compile a diary of my lead up to the great game.

**6 days to go:** Umpire a game!! Must get fit, I can walk the dog tomorrow.

**5 days to go:** Why is the dog looking at me with the lead in her mouth? Did I promise her something? Oh yeah big game Saturday, give her some Ice Cream. Oh well share the Ice cream with her.

**4 days to go:** Walk the dog. Fantastic as a reward stop off at shops for some Ice cream.

**3 days to go:** Drive dog down to shops for Ice Cream. Start looking for my gear

**2 days to go:** Lunch with still active umpire and advise on my progress. Why the strange looks.

**Friday night:** Where is my gear. Found it. Where is the rest of my gear?

### Saturday Morning

I know there is still some gear in the shed. Or, did I give it away? Clothes, socks, counter, what have I forgotten.

### 1 hour before the big game.

While polishing my shoes in a state of calm concentration, with borrowed shoe polish I start the pre game ritual.

- Clean shoes.
- Put on socks and protector.
- Put shoes on.
- Take shoes off and put pants on.
- Are these my plate pants? Are you sure? They don't seem to fit.
- Put shoes back on.
- Try to put leggings on under the pants.
- Tee shirt, chest plate, after adjustment, someone must have borrowed it.
- Shirt, plate cap mask, ball bag. What have I missed?

### Game Time

Borrow coin for the toss and pinch a pen from one of the scorers.

### Play Ball

This is great, I haven't lost a thing. Well maybe some pace around the diamond, but I'm seeing the ball well. Can I borrow your spare plate brush?

### Innings 4

Getting information from my knees that they are not enjoying this anymore. The rest of the body is starting to agree.

### Game Over

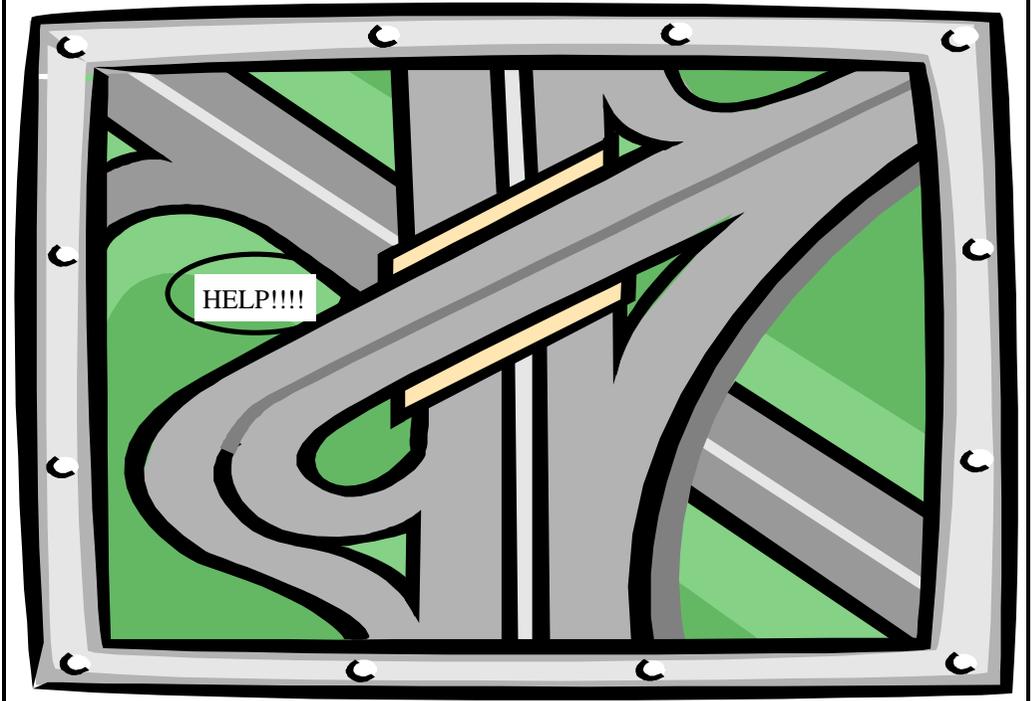
About time. I gave up trailing the runner two digs ago and don't even move away from the plate. Excellent use of a holding zone.

### That evening

Starting to seize up. Need some more cans of general anaesthetic

### The Next Day

Cannot get out of bed. Perhaps I need some more preparation before a game.



## Junior Australia Day Tournament

A.C.T.

ACT Softball hosted the annual Junior Australia Day Tournament. In total 80 teams attended (girls and boys).

This tournament has been running for over 13 years and continues to grow every year. ACT Softball Association and participating associations believe this tournament is an important platform for the development of Junior Softballers and Umpires.

A very busy weekend was had by all. The Tournament was split over two parks the girls being held at Hawker and the boys at Kambah.

It is always a very busy weekend for the UIC's, doing allocations and reworking allocations due to the volume of games and umpires. One of the most gratifying aspects of being the UIC at a Tournament of this size is the willingness of all umpires to work above and beyond the call of duty. Some umpires over the weekend service five games a day and some back to back.

Forty-six umpires serviced the girls and 15 Umpires serviced the boys. As per usual there were not enough umpires to cover the total number of teams. All umpires worked very hard and some having to run one man systems on their games.

From the faces of the young girls a good weekend was had by all.

I would like to extend thanks to all umpires who attended from across all states, Queensland, NSW, Victoria, SA and of course the ACT Umpires.

I look forward to working with the wonderful bunch of umpires that continue to turn up every year.

Denise Culpitt - ACT Director of Umpiring.



**STRIKE:** Queensland Level 3 umpire, Dianne Bunston keeps an eye on the ball in a fixture game in Toowoomba. Photograph courtesy of the Toowoomba Chronicle.

## UMPIRES SELECTION FOR INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

### JAPAN TOUR - FEBRUARY

Games will be played at Waverley, Albury and Keilor Park.

(All Victorian Umpires)

Kerry Franklin  
Leigh Evans  
Debbie Grove  
George James  
Debbie Keogh  
Rhonda Scammell  
Diane Waller  
Lindsay Whitehead

### SOUTH PACIFIC CLASSIC – APRIL

Games will be played at the Mirrabooka complex in Perth.

David Crowe	NSW
Denise Culpitt	ACT
Matt Gowty	NSW
Debbie Grove	VIC
Alan McAuliffe	SA
Damien McCauley	SA
Darrell Shephard	NSW
Diane Waller	VIC

It is anticipated that New Zealand will send two umpires and that China will also include an umpire in their party.

### CANADA CUP AND WOMEN'S' WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP – SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA.

Matt Gowty            Journeyman

### TRANS-TASMAN EXCHANGE - March

Sue Itzstien    NSW

## Margo Koskelainen - National Umpiring Director

Margo was introduced to softball by Bess Dornan, Softball Australia's first coach, and started playing softball in 1954 with the Posties Club in the Melbourne Softball Association competition at Fawkner Park, South Yarra, with Merle Short (ASF Secretary) as her coach. It was at this early age that she met Marj Dwyer, Esther Deason and many of the Victorians who were Australian players at that time.

After her marriage she and Karl relocated to Albury, NSW, with Remington Office Equipment where Margo recommenced her softball involvement with administration, playing (with Comets Club) and scoring. She attended the first Women's World Championship in Melbourne in 1965, staying with family in Melbourne for the duration.

In 1968, another Company move, this time to Shepparton in the Goulburn Valley, saw her continue and expand her commitment to softball.

Accepting the position of Media Officer with the Shepparton Association in 1969, Margo had a regular column in the "Shepparton News", the local newspaper, during the summer months and a regular segment during the summer sports program on 3SR, the local radio station. Her involvement in the sports radio program continued for many years.

During her early years in Shepparton, Margo coached an Under 17 team (Shamrocks Club) to several premierships and later took on the Rebels Club coaching position in the "A" Grade competition. She went on to coach the Shepparton Open representative team to a State premiership in 1984 with many of her now-grown-up "Shamrocks" players in the team.

Margo commenced umpiring in 1971 with the Shepparton Association. She attained her "B Grade" (Level 2) in 1972, her "Victorian" State badge (Level 4) in 1973 and "Australian" badge (Level 6) in 1975. She umpired at every Women's National Championship from 1975 to 1985 and attained international certification in 1979. In 1980 Margo was selected to umpire at the Mini World Series in Brisbane and was allocated third base on the Championship game.

Margo was appointed Deputy Umpire in Chief for Australia in October 1980 and has been ASF National Director of Umpiring since 1985. She has officiated in one form or another at 27 Australian Women's Championships but has lost track of the number of Men's, Jr. Women, U16 Girls, Jr. Men and U16 Boys National Championships at which she has been Tournament Chief Umpire since 1985.



Margo has also been on the examination panel for umpires at Australian Championships since 1981.

Since the inclusion of softball in the Arafura Games in Darwin in 1993, Margo has conducted Umpiring Clinics for umpires, both from the Northern Territory and the participating countries, prior to and during the competition, including an International Olympic Committee funded clinic in 1995. In her capacity as Tournament Umpire-in-Chief, Margo has been the ASF representative at the biennial event since that time.

Margo was South Pacific Classic UIC in 1985 and in 1990 took on the role of Head of Delegation of the highly acclaimed, innovative Australian Umpires study tour of Canada/U.S.A. in 1990.

International Softball Federation appointments include Deputy UIC for the Jr. Women's World Championship in Adelaide in 1991, ISF Umpire Accreditor in 1992, ISF Co-Regional UIC in 1993, and ISF Regional UIC in her own right in 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2001. She was also appointed as UIC for two Olympic Qualifiers, Auckland, NZ in 1995 and Kao Shiung, Taiwan, in 1999.

She was an Umpires Selector for the 1996 and 2000 Olympic Games and was appointed Deputy UIC for the Softball competition of the Sydney 2000 Olympics. In 2001, Margo was appointed UIC of the ISF Jr. Men's World Championship, which was held in Sydney, Australia, the first woman ever to be accorded that position.

She has represented Australia at the Umpire's and Playing Rules Commissions of the ISF Congress on five occasions, Taipei (Taiwan) in 1993, San Juan (Puerto Rico) in 1995, Long Beach, California (USA) in 1997, Seoul (Korea) in 1999 and Tampa, Florida (USA) in 2001.

Margo has presented two papers on softball Umpiring, "Changing an Umpiring Infrastructure" at the Australian Sports Commission's National Officiating Convention in 1996 in Brisbane, and "Female Umpires – A Blueprint for Success" at the Canadian "Blue" Convention in Fredericton, New Brunswick in 2001, both written in conjunction with Ken Culpitt.

Additionally at various times, Margo has held the positions of Secretary of the Albury & District Softball Association; Secretary and then President of the Shepparton Softball Association; Country Delegate, State Councillor, Acting Secretary and Vice President of the Victorian Softball Association. She retired from the VSA Board of Management in 1994 after 20 years service.

Margo was awarded Life Membership of Softball Australia in 1993 - one of only a handful of people to achieve that honour, and Life Membership of the Victorian Softball Association in 1996. Margo was the National Officiating

Program's "Softball Official of the Year" in 1995 and again in 2000.

In the 2000 Queens Birthday Australian Honours, Margo was awarded the Order of Australia for her service to umpiring at State, National and International level.

Margo is married to Karl and has two daughters – Erika and Trudi - both of whom played softball in Shepparton with Trudi playing in Port Hedland during a nine year stay in the Pilbara.

Karl and Margo still live in Shepparton, and have two grandchildren, Kate and Tim. For many years she worked as the Manager of a specialist Medical practice and currently as an office administrator for the Northern Victoria Fruitgrowers' Association on a part time basis.

When not involved with softball administration, She very much enjoys cooking for family and friends, reading fantasy sci-fi, collecting dragons, developing new and improved models of broomsticks, dabbling in photography and gardening.

## Amanda dines alone in Melbourne restaurant



**Dessert anyone:** When the umpiring crew at the Under 19 men's went out to dinner in Melbourne only Amanda Greggs (New South Wales) ordered dessert. Looking on with tongues out clockwise from Amanda, Kevin Offer, Phil Waller, Kevin Broomhall, Greg Baker, Kerry Franklin and Damien McCauley. Yes I was there, I was taking the picture. Of course, we had to wait for her yet again. **M.G.T.**

## New Umpires for S.A. while Glistak calls it a day

Congratulations are extended to Rod Dawson who gained his Level 5 at the recent National Under 16 Girls' Championship held in Hobart. Rod has shared his umpiring this season between the Gawler & Districts Softball Association and the Adelaide Competition.

South Australia

### STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

A number of umpire assessments were conducted at the recent Senior and Junior State Championships, held at West Beach and Port Pirie respectively. The successful candidates were:-

Level 2

Graham Gambold (Central Districts Association)

Level 1

Jennifer Burston (Mount Gambier Association)

Shannon Edwards (Port Pirie Association)

Nathan Lynch (Port Pirie Association)

Kate Rawlins (Broken Hill Association)

Pam Rosser (Central Districts Association)

Paul Scott (Hills Association)

Congratulations to each of the above umpires on their achievement and we look forward to their on-going commitment to softball umpiring.

John Glistak ended his report here but the editor has decided to continue his comments which follows.

**Tofty,**

**This will be my last report as I am retiring as Editor of *Strike Me Blue* after the forthcoming March edition. That edition will conclude for me, nine years as Editor of *Strike Me Blue*. In addition, I have announced that I will be taking a break from softball after 25 years involvement with the sport in a number of capacities.**

**That's all for now,  
John Glistak.**

I am sure that there are many umpires and softball enthusiasts that have been involved with John over his 25 year career. On behalf of BNOL and many people who know him, I wish John all the best in the future. **Tofty**

## Flying The Friendly Skies (when you thought it was safe to go back into the sky)

All too rarely, airline attendants make an effort to make the in-flight "safety lecture" and their other announcements a bit more entertaining. Here are some real examples that have been heard or reported:

**On a Continental Flight with a very "senior" flight attendant crew, the pilot said, "Ladies and gentlemen, we've reached cruising altitude And will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and enhance the appearance of your flight attendants,"**

On landing the stewardess said, "please be sure to take all your belongings. If you're going to leave anything, please make sure it's something we'd like to have."

**"There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane."**

"Thank you for flying Delta Business Express. We hope you enjoyed giving us the business as much as we enjoyed taking you for a ride."

**As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Washington National, a lone voice came over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella. WHOA!"**

After a particularly rough landing, a flight attendant on a Northwest flight announced, "Please take care when opening the overhead compartments because, after a landing like that, sure as hell everything has shifted."

**In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child travelling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are travelling with more than one small child... pick your favourite.**

Weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, but we'll try to have them fixed before we arrive. Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money, more than Southwest Airlines."

**And from the pilot during his welcome message: "Delta Airlines is pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in the industry. Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight!"**

## Macarthur Fastpitch Shootout – Scott Rindfleish

The Macarthur Fastpitch Shootout (8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2002) was a fantastic tournament, bringing some of the best Men's ball players from around Australia to Camden, home of Macarthur and District Softball Association to compete in an extremely exciting event.

The umpires found the timing of the Shootout to be perfect as a comeback after a break from Nationals or for Ken and Andy, the perfect game preparation for the men's Nationals in Perth.

The umpiring crew was largely New South Wales based under the leadership of Andrew Rindfleish – UIC. Interstate Umpires also travelled from Queensland and the ACT to unite with the NSW Blues to present Umpires of a very high standard.

The Interstate umpires – Tricia Bichel QLD (Deputy UIC), Mark Toft QLD, Frank Thomas QLD, Darren Sibraa QLD, Ken Culpitt ACT.

NSW Umpires – Andrew Rindfleish, Trevor Pascall, Bruce McCahon, Greg Baker, Scott Rindfleish, Graham Boyle, Andrew Chapman, Amanda Greggs, Heather Randall, Col Davis, Danny Wikatoa, Jim Long, Dave Barker.

The Grand Final played between Scorpions (QLD) and Stirling Centrals (WA) was a close fight with Scorpions proving to be the more aggressive with the bat.

The Grand Final umpires were:

*Plate* – Andrew Rindfleish

*First* – Ken Culpitt

*Third* – Greg Baker.

N.S.W.

Queenslanders



**Below: Tofty in action behind the plate on day three.**



**Above: The Championship game crew: L to R, Ken Culpitt, Andrew Rindfleish and Greg**



**The Queensland Connection From left: Darren Sibraa, Frank Thomas and Mark Toft in their sponsored shirts at this year's Macarthur Fastpitch Shootout in Sydney.**

### A Special Mention

The two Sydney-based clubs, Bankstown Bandits and Mounties each donated \$500.00 of equipment to the Macarthur and District Softball Association for juniors. The gesture came as their travel costs to the Tournament were at a minimum. Well Done guys!

## A look at the International Development Squad Clinic

by Sue Itzstein

Before we begin could all the Extroverts go and sit with the Thinkers, the Sensates with the Perceptives, and the Intuitives with the Feelers and the Introverts with the Judges. Now that we are all comfortable we shall start.

It started on a balmy New Years Eve 2001 when 5 Victorians, 4 New South Welshmen, 1 Territorian (the capital one) and 5 from our most eastern state converged on the AIS Canberra, for what we were about to learn would be four jammed packed full days.

I am sure that we all went into this clinic with the expectation that we would learn and learn and learn and then learn some more (especially how to juggle), what would be expected of us as an international umpire and to learn from and share the experiences of the presenters.

While I believe that we all came away having learnt many things (too many to list) I would like to touch briefly on a couple. First being Goal Setting.

I know some of you will say that you do not need to set goals and whatever happens – happens. In the past I would have agreed with you however I have come to realise that success does not just happen, you have to make it happen for you and that it takes a lot of hard work with Goal Setting being part of that hard work. As you progress in your umpiring you need to set goals so you can evaluate your performance along the way. When setting goals you need to set long and short term goals, they need to be Achievable, Realistic and Measurable and most important of all you need to find someone you trust to share your goals with.

Secondly, while at the clinic we spent a day with a representative from Pace Learning which included doing a Myers Briggs Type Indicator Questionnaire. This turned out to be a very popular section of the clinic with everyone gaining a much better insight into not only their own personality but also a better understanding of others. The session touched on Meta and Conflict Management which was beneficial especially in our aspect of the sport. If you get an opportunity to talk with one of the umpires who attended the clinic I strongly recommend you talk about this session as you will find Meta and Conflict Management fascination.

In closing – which non smoking umpire can always be found amongst the smokers during breaks, because he reckons it's the most interesting place to be and where you find out the most Goss?

Last but not least, while technically not part of the clinic more the Open Women's Nationals – **HAS ANYONE SEEN MY BALLOON?**

## What to do in a Target store!!!!

1. Get boxes of condoms and randomly put them in people's carts when they're not looking.
2. Set all the alarm clocks to go off at ten-minute intervals throughout the day.
3. Make a trail of orange juice on the floor, leading to the restrooms.
4. Walk up to an employee and tell him/her in an official tone, "I think we've got a Code 3 in home wares," and see what happens.
5. Tune all the radios to a polka station; then turn them all off and turn the volumes to "10."
6. Challenge other customers to duels with rolls of gift wrap.
7. Put a packet of Smarties on lay-by.
8. Move "Caution: Wet Floor" signs to carpeted areas.
9. Set up a tent in the outdoors department; tell others you'll only invite them in if they bring pillows from the "Bed and Bath" section.
10. When (if) someone asks if you need help, begin to cry and ask, "Why won't you people just leave me alone?"
11. Look right into the security camera and use it as a mirror while you pick your nose.
12. Take up an entire aisle in Toys by setting up a full-scale battlefield with Pokemon vs. the X-Men.
13. While handling knives in the sports department, suddenly ask the attendant if he/she knows where the anti-depressants are.
14. Switch the men's and women's signs on the doors of the restrooms.
15. Dart around suspiciously while humming the theme from "Mission Impossible."
16. Set up a "Valet Parking" sign in front of the shop.
17. In the automotive department, practice your "Madonna" look with various funnels.