



## **UMPIRE PROFILE**

### **Brian Goodman**



Brian "Benny" Goodman, (VSDCA Umpire Coach) on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021. umpired his 400th - 1st Eleven VSDCA game.

He started playing cricket at Pascoe Vale Central Cricket Club when he was 18 or 19 years old. He was a wicket keeper/ batsman his best figures behind the stumps in his career, was six catches and two stumpings in the one game, while playing for PVCCC.

From PVCCC, he moved on to Merinda Park Cricket Club, near Cranbourne to play with his two brothers. At Merinda he scored his only century, 106.

Benny worked for Miller's Ropes as a Mechanical Engineer, he was given an opportunity, to move to the subsidiary of the company in Geelong called Donough's. Benny was about 23 years old at the time and ended up playing in Geelong in the 1st Eleven as a wicket-keeper batsman and was coached by none other than Ian Redpath, former Australia test opener.

In 1987-88 Benny was umpiring football in the VAFA and injured his achilles tendon, tearing it right off the bone. This injury ended his footy umpiring, and his cricket playing careers. Undeterred by these setbacks, he became the nonplaying coach of his beloved Merinda Park Cricket Club for seven years between 1989 and 1996. In the cricket season of 1986-87, he also started umpiring in the VSDCA.

After 35 season's he has so much to reflect on. When Benny started, Kevin Carmody was the umpires advisor and taught Benny many great values, "Kevin had a great ability to get the message through to the umpires, and had everyone work on three or four key aspects of their game".

Benny's first-ever game as an umpire in the VSDCA was at Williamstown, with Matt Harris which the umpires Most Improved Umpire Trophy is named after.

#### Benny's Cricketing Habits

- Benny puts his counter in his pocket on the fifth ball of every over.
- He makes a point of moving after every ball towards the crease, even when a shot has not been played, "

#### Q & A

What is the hardest decision to make?

Bat pads & legside catches.

Have you ever umpired with a test umpire? Yes, Bill Sheehan and Len King

Have you ever considered leaving subbies?

No, Len King tried for 5 years to get him to join Premier Cricket (for family reasons the answer was always no)

What's your secret for handling conflict?

"Provide open and honest communication, have good body language, be calm, look them in their eyes and I don't get in this space, and hold your ground.

#### Benny's Statistics:

400 x 1st Eleven Games

512 x VSDCA Games

Multiple Grand Finals

13/15 x Championship Finals

12 x Representative Matches

Life Memberships

VAFU Umpires Association

VSDCUA

VSDCA

Merinda Park Cricket Club

Roles in Subbies

Coach 2017- 21 (4 years)

Education Office

Mentor

VSDCUA Committee (3 Years)

#### Coaching Umpires

Benny loves coaching new umpires, "I love the way they absorb information and learn new skills. I get a huge thrill when umpires get promoted".

What are your top tips for new umpires?

1. Teamwork and communication
2. Be calm and composed
3. Concentration
4. Enjoy the experience
5. After every ball glance of your partner
6. Know the rules
7. Have a set routine when tossing
8. Have a game plan with your partner for every match

#### Family Friends & VAFU

Benny's family is important to him, he is married to Wendy, and has three daughters. Wendy is not a sports person and supports Benny 100% in what he does.

He likes to catch up with his family and friends, he loves Christmas, coffees, and lunches, and has three or four good groups of mates which he meets for lunch regularly.

His recent retirement from the VFA after 16 years has provided him much more time to devote to cricket. "The VFA has been a great organization to work with, it is the biggest community football competition in Australia!"

Legend

After 400 1st Eleven matches, this bloke is living legend, he has done it all!

Congratulation Benny, we love having you coach the umpires, we love your leadership, commitment, passion, effort, and work ethic.

Well done on an amazing career at Subbies, and may there be many more games in the future!