



## **2019 President's Report**

Any thoughts of simply playing a supporting role to the clubs seems to have almost vanished as FIDA's involvement in the organization and running of the competition greatly increased during the year.

Because the AFL Victoria Disabilities Program Manager's role grew to increase many other disability programs we were called upon to play a more hands-on role in the day to day running of the League.

A positive of this was the opportunity to get to know more of the people running the country clubs. Attending gala days at Wodonga, Bendigo and Stawell was a great way to liaise with all country clubs.

A Special Needs Day made up of games for women and also players with Down Syndrome was very successful. This was held at Waverley Park in conjunction with the AFL and the Hawthorn Football Club.

Other highlights of the year were the National Carnival held in Blacktown in NSW and the INAS Global Games held in Brisbane. The latter allowed the All Australian team to play two exhibition games as part of an international sports carnival for people with an intellectual impairment.

Having an Executive Committee independent of the clubs has been a strength of FIDA. However with a differing role we decided to recruit Rob Klemm and Paul House, both club presidents on to the committee and this added great experience and passion to the committee.

As usual Chris Ryan and Cheryl Collins worked tirelessly with our fund-raising with the Season Launch being the highlight. We were able to supply the All Australian, Vic Metro and Vic Country jumpers as well as financially supporting three of our clubs.

A great amount of work went into the construction of a new MOU with AFL Victoria and as well as thanking the committee I would like to give special mention to David Collins and Craig Braddy for their invaluable input.

Overall it was another great FIDA season. I would like to sincerely thank our sponsors and supporters.

Best wishes for the season

Peter Ryan OAM  
FIDA President