

Out of Bounds

IT was an emotional time at the Gippsland Umpires Association life members' dinner last week after both Gavin Dore and George Burke were awarded life memberships.

Gavin Dore said he was stunned and thrilled by the award.

"It's blown me away and I accept it with the greatest of pleasure," he said.

Dore, who has gone on to officiate at nearly 300 AFL games including the 1996 grand final has been a great ambassador for the GUA.

George Burke, who joined the GUA in 1989, has umpired more than 250 games and recently has been waving the white flags.

He was equally as pleased, if not surprised at the honour.

Another highlight of the night was the presentation of the Ray Barwick Memorial Advisors Award that went to up-and-coming youngster Chris Odrowaz.

"THE under-18 competition has stuffed country football".

Those were the forthright words of triple Brownlow medallist and eight times South Melbourne best and fairest Bob Skilton who was special guest at the Gippsland Umpires Association life member's dinner last week.

Many country football supporters would wholeheartedly agree with Skilton's blunt assessment.

Skilton highlighted the fact that the days were gone when a young champion could emerge straight from the bush and go to the big smoke and make it in the AFL.

These days the emerging talent is steered towards the TAC Cup competition and this has deprived country football of witnessing and waxing lyrical over their prospective champions.

WHEN interviewed by Gippsland umpire and 3BBR's footy show host Mick Jungwirth and asked for any tips, newly crowned Breheny medallist and Mornington greyhound trainer Brett Anthony was quick to quip: "Yes, don't tip any of mine".

Either Anthony was being modest or trying to give us all a bum steer.

One thing can be ascer-



Goon had not discounted the possibility of joining the Ellinbank league.

WHO says that the young folk today don't show any sportsmanship?

As soon as he was presented with his premiership medal for being part of the victorious under-16 team, Warragul's Alex Gavin handed it to injured team mate Bryce Monahan.

THE pavilion at Nar Nar Goon was colourfully adorned with the flags of all league clubs, except Cerberus. Apparently the flag blew away and that seems to sum up the season for the Navy boys.

ROC's under-18 coach Warren Cawcutt tried to produce the best legendary North Melbourne coach Alan Killigrew could offer at three quarter time, but it was not enough to get his valiant charges across the line.

"Look each other in the eye and show a commitment to each other" and "twenty minutes of your life is a small price to pay for just some of Cawcutt's offerings."

DROUIN thirds have now won the premiers-

for more than three-quarters of the game.

THE biggest rumour circulating at the Nar Nar Goon reserve at the weekend was that Garfield captain-coach Ben Soumilas has been offered a decent inducement to cross over to the Goon next season.

Other news is that while Tooradin is keen to obtain the services of former AFL player Matthew Young, who has taken over residence at the Tooradin Hotel, word is that quite a few MPNFL players and ex-players have also expressed a keen interest in the position.

THE only hiccup to occur during the day was that the National Anthem died half way through. After a long afternoon and a late start, many spectators found it quite a relief that the football was going to start and take their minds off the cold and chilly weather.

UMPIRES adviser Wayne Barnes has decided to step down from his Gippsland with the Association.

Barnes, a life member with 19 years experi-



Above: IT was a big weekend of highs and lows for the Fawcner household. Garfield stalwarts Jimmy, wife Carmel and son Brendan spent Saturday night as the guests of the Cranbourne Harness Racing Club as owners of the club's horse of the year, Wirrawee Bey, which is also trained by Brendan at Bunyip. On Sunday, the family was out in force at Nar Nar Goon football ground to cheer on the Stars as they took on Warragul in the grand final. Brendan and Jimmy both played long and esteemed football careers at Garfield and were keen to see the Stars bring the flag home. They were disappointed, however, as Warragul won the day.

Left: SEVERAL people commented last week that although Warragul's Paul Whelan booted his 100th goal and ROC spearhead Callum White (pictured) finished the season on 97, neither rated a mention in the Herald Sun when it collated and published its top 20 goal kickers in country football. The reason is believed to be that when the list was collated, neither was in the top group and it was their efforts in the finals that boosted their standing.

WEST GIPPSLAND LATROBE SCOREBOARD

WESTERN DIVISION

GRAND FINALS - played at Nar Nar Goon
(Sunday 14 September)
Gate: \$25,753 (record)

	SENIORS			
WARRAGUL	2.2	4.3	5.11	7.13.55
GARFIELD	1.1	2.5	5.5	5.6.36

Gate Takings: \$25,753
Warragul: Best - R. Murphy, S. Pitt, A. Green, J. Cant, N. Edney, R. Flack. Goals - P. Whelan 4, N. Edney, S. Byrne, T. Brady.
Garfield: Best - A. Soumilas, B. Marsh, N. Marsh, J. Pumphrey, L. Withers. Goals - S. Pickering 2, M. McKenna, D. O'Brien, J. Allen.

	RESERVES			
DROUIN	1.1	4.4	7.4	10.4.64
WARRAGUL	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.7.19

Drouin: Best - Troy Kneebone, J. Ablett, Cam Bawden, S. Youngman, J. Cope, P. Youngman. Goals - J. Cope 2, J. Walsh 2, A. Campbell, C. Jagoe, A. Bethune, S. Masterson, P. Youngman, Cam Bawden.
Warragul: Best - A. Grant, C. Butler, S. Pullen, M. Blackwood, D. McDonald. Goals - C. Black 2.

	UNDER 18			
DROUIN	0.4	2.9	4.12	5.14.44
ROC	2.1	4.1	4.6	5.8.38

Drouin: Best - D. Olson, A. Cook, B. Lockhart, T. Gardiner, S. Mulligan, B. McCallum. Goals - A. Cook 2, D. Olson 2, B. McCallum.
ROC: Best - B. Jones, T. Hillman, D. Scott, J. Bosanquet, M. James, L. Day. Goals - D. Galante, A. Young, D. Scott, D. Strahan, M. James.

	UNDER 16			
WARRAGUL	2.3	5.4	8.8	11.9.75
NAR NAR GOON	3.2	4.3	4.4	7.4.46

Warragul: Best - Team effort. Goals - M. Gooden 4, B. Runnalls 3, Z. Vansittart, B. Jostlear, K. Bergels, N. Hughes.
Nar Nar Goon: Best - S. Noonan, P. Hicks, B. Dore, B. Rotheram, L. Hansen, G. Bramley. Goals - B. Rotheram 2, C. Saunders 2, D. Fry, S. Noonan, B. Dore.

Mercedes Benz,