

Thursday, 28 June 2018

MEDIA RELEASE



Orange Round 2018

The stories of five members of the Gippsland football and netball community are being highlighted as part of a new campaign to end men's violence against women and children.

Cayte Hoppner, Jaclyn Quinn, Peter Moody, Pip Timms and Jess Mills are each challenging traditional gender roles in sport in their own unique way and will be celebrated as ambassadors for this year's Orange Round initiative.

Quinn holds the position of high performance manager at Traralgon Football Netball Club, while Moody is one of the region's few male coaches of an A Grade netball team, having taken on the role at Moe Football Netball Club this season.

Mills made history in last year when she became the first female field umpire to officiate a senior game in the TRFM Gippsland League.

Hoppner and Timms are established leaders within the local football and netball community, with the former an AFL Gippsland Region Commissioner and the latter a past president and now vice-president of the Bairnsdale Football Netball Club.

"My responsibility as a commissioner is to stand up for gender equality and the prevention of violence against women," Hoppner said.

"Orange Round highlights the importance of leading change not only in sport but in the broader community."

Since its introduction in 2015, Orange Round has become an annual fixture on the Gippsland football and netball calendar.

This year's event will focus on the TRFM Gippsland League, with all 10 member clubs hosting an information session for players and members run by project partners Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault, Gippsland Women's Health, GippSport, Quantum Support Services, Netball Victoria and AFL Gippsland.

Round 13 of the competition will also be dedicated to the cause, with clubs using the colour orange to promote the event and the importance of gender equality in sport.

The concept is an adaptation of United Nations initiative Orange Day, which occurs on the 25th day of every month and aims to not only raise awareness, but drive meaningful change in societal attitudes and behaviours regarding violence against women and girls.

Violence against women and children remains a major issue in Australia.

According to national not-for-profit organisation Our Watch, violence at the hands of a partner or former partner remains the greatest preventable risk factor for death or disability for women aged 15-44 years.



AFL Gippsland
Morwell Recreation Reserve | Morwell | VIC 3840
PO Box 853 | Traralgon | Victoria 3844
Ph: 5134 8733

AFL Gippsland was established to promote and grow the AFL football community in Gippsland through higher participation at all levels and by providing leadership and support to the football and wider sporting community.

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Family violence against women is also the single largest driver of homelessness for women, a common factor in child protection notifications, and results in a police call-out on average once every two minutes across the country.

Gippsland Women's Health chief executive Fiona Owen said Orange Round was a great example of the prevention and response sectors working together.

"Funding from the Gippsland Family Violence Alliance enables agencies to work in partnership and to discuss this issue with sporting groups in a safe and supported way," Owen said.

"We continue to build awareness and understanding of family violence throughout Gippsland communities to increase safety, accountability and choices."

Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault chief executive Fiona Boyle believes the sporting community can play a role in stopping this violence from occurring.

"The idea behind this initiative is to encourage members of the community to make the link between gender inequality and men's violence against women and start a local conversation about this important social issue," Boyle said.

"We want to encourage sporting clubs to use the influence they have in the community to start a conversation and stop violence against women and children in Gippsland."

Orange Round takes place in the TRFM Gippsland League on 7, 8, 14 and 15 July.

Wrist bands promoting the Orange Round message of 'respect, dignity and equality' will also be available at venues on game day and members of the community are invited to use social media to display their support for the initiative.

Ambassador stories and more information on gender equality and the Orange Round initiative can be found at www.makethelink.com.au



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2018 Orange Round schedule:

- Sat, 7 July: Maffra v Leongatha at Leongatha Recreation Reserve
- Sun, 8 July: Bairnsdale v Moe at Bairnsdale City Oval
- Sat, 14 July: Traralgon v Wonthaggi Power at Traralgon Recreation Reserve
Sale v Morwell at Sale Recreation Reserve
- Sun, 15 July: Warragul v Drouin at Western Park, Warragul

*For more information contact AFL Gippsland media and marketing manager
Damen Francis at damen.francis@afl.com.au or on 0439 415 986.*



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