



## 2023 Coach of the Year

*Coach whose contribution is over and above*

**Kerry Saunders** has coached with Werribee since 2018 inaugural season of masters women's football, and served as our club president in 2022. When our much loved "mother hen" John Crenr Crennan passed away suddenly, Kerry stepped up. She attended league meetings, just rallied the troops and got club going in the right direction. We changed club rooms, she's had to figure out how to register players, make permits for players and just work out the league logistics. Kerry is an old school player, administrator and overtly the best club person. Champion.



**Beth Aitkin**, Parkside Spurs commenced in the role of Coach with the Spurs Masters in 2022. From the outset Beth was warm, friendly and approachable. Beth created an environment that was psychologically safe for players and always put people first. She encourages us to be our best whatever that looked like, just as long as we had a crack. Team first, footy second. Be respectful of your opponent. No question was ever too dumb – what's a wing? Why do I have to stay on my player? Can we have mandarins instead of oranges. She took it all in her stride with a smile. Outside of the club environment, Beth serves as head coach of the Vic Metro Carnival Team, supporting players and clubs across the league to be the best they can. Beth is respected and loved for living what she stands for. Give what you can when you can. Be humble and be kind. She is an asset to our footy club, our community, and our friendship circle.



**Sue Emery** from Eastern Warriors is highly respected across Vic Metro.. She has been involved at a player level since inaugural competition in 2018 and since then has gone on to captain and coach Eastern Warriors. Currently doing level 2 coaching course, Sue coaches and supports the development of the new modified AFL Masters non contact football game. This year, Sue has also developed her communication, and started a series of interview of women in football, capturing their journeys/stories into sport I know her Dad has gone from telling her "no, you are not playing football, it is a boys game" to being a big supporter. Personally, I would not still be involved as a player if Sue had not remained a coach. Most certainly I would not be attending the National Carnival as a player for the first time either.



**Belinda Bowey** (Blouse) - Port Colts is an amazing coach and human. Not only does Blouse find the football value of every team member, she supports members of the team whatever their background and has a genuine passion for getting women to play the sport. She is regularly found offering coaching to opposition teams because her love of the game just wants to see the sport grow and women playing their best game. Belinda Bowey's extensive experience and achievements contribute to her deep understanding of the game and its nuances. Her expertise not only translates into on-field success but also serves as a source of inspiration for aspiring players. Belinda's leadership style is characterized by empathy, understanding, and kindness. She creates an environment where players feel valued and respected, both on and off the field. This positive culture not only enhances player well-being but also contributes to enhanced team cohesion and improved performance.

**JOIN US!**

If you are interested in joining a women's team, come down to a game or a training session. Our website has local club contacts [aflvm.com.au](http://aflvm.com.au) or reach out by email: [womensfootball@aflvm.com.au](mailto:womensfootball@aflvm.com.au)