



### 2023 Lynn Smith Medal

*"The feeling never left me – I just wanted to play" Shows initiative, inspires others, brings joy and love to Over 35's Women's Football.*



**Michelle Lewis** (Lewy) from Port Melbourne is in her 50s has played mainly in the back line for the past 5 years and has been open to playing up forward for her new club. Lewy is a quiet person not wanting any fuss and always doing what's best for the team. With her new team she has kicked a couple of goals which has been celebrated by her opponents as much as her team mates as she epitomises the spirit of masters footy.

**Fiona Kerr** from Parkside Spurs started playing footy in 2007 and has never looked back. Fi's qualities as a person and team mate cannot be separated. She has an excellent approach to both training and game day. The thing that stands out is her commitment and dedication to the team and the club. Nothing is too much. She is non-judgemental, doesn't laugh at silly questions, supports new players, and has a willingness to share knowledge accumulated over her 15 years of playing.

**Kylie O'Reilly** from Northside Lions is well known in our comp and the wider football community. Someone is always coming to her for a hug or asking for her guidance. She has many great stories to tell about her experiences. Kylie has been on many football committees and staff for over 20yrs. The spirit of the game is second nature to her, she checks up on injured players and encourages new players. Kylie takes on many complex tasks to benefit the league, and represents her club/league at nationals carnival as VC. Kylie plays and team manages with her daughters senior team at Diamond Creek. Zarah shows the apple doesn't fall far with her endless contribution to sport. *(As on the judging panel, Kylie has declined this nomination, but appreciates the acknowledgement)*

**Amanda Williams** (Boobs) from Port Melbourne played her first ever game of AFL in the inaugural season. She has not since missed a game, allowing her to reach 50 games in Round 10. Her journey from the start of the season to taking on the role of captain, has been a testament to her dedication and personal growth. She shows resilience and determination to excel both as a player and as a leader. Boobs is the pinnacle of sportsmanship, beginning and ending every game with genuine words of inspiration and compassion. A humble and inspiring player and team mate, (despite having the worst nickname on the team).

*My name is Kielly Ryan, I am a profound deaf player and a native Auslan (Australian Sign Language) user. . This season, I was hit by a motorbike resulting in broken fibula and tibia. Amanda continued to visit and check in, even when I was moved to the rehabilitation centre. She generously gives her time as I have sadly been out of action, including doing laundry..*

*Amanda started to learn Auslan so she can communicate with me. Recently, I was shocked when the coach Belinda Bowey sent me the video of the whole team singing the team song in Auslan that had me in tears!*

**Michelle Flintoff** (Moose) from Mordialloc Supers Football club is a true reflection of what Over 35's women's football is about. She is the most encouraging team mate, always positive, and willing to play in any position that the teams needs. Off the field she straps the players, and is team masseuse; she is willing to help any player from any team. She loves representing Victoria and is always trying to encourage others to join. Moose has barely missed a training session and always has a can do attitude.

**Erin Smith**, from Parkside Spurs started playing footy with the Spurs in 2005 when most of us were dreaming and wishing women's footy was a thing.. When you meet Erin, the first thing you notice is her friendly and open face. She brings a positive, level-headed, and encouraging vibe to everything she does. She trains to be the best player she can., Erin does lots of behind-the-scenes jobs, and she is inclusive of all players. Nothing speaks louder about Erin's character than when she gave up the captaincy at the end of last season because she wanted to put her focus where she thought it mattered: making sure our team and our club are as supported as they can be to simply enjoy playing footy.