**2016 AFL SCHOOL AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR**

**Primary School winner:**Dale Missen

**School:**Darley Primary School

**Winners Profile:**Dale was the driving force behind the introduction an all Girls AFL 9’s Competition across the Bacchus Marsh Primary Schools. Dale is a passionate and active organiser for the co-ordination of school football within the district, and recognised the opportunity to grow female football participation in the area, especially on the back of Youth Girls teams participating for the Bacchus Marsh and Darley Football clubs. His initiative has now resulted in a 9 team Round Robin day occurring supported by AFL Goldfields Football Development staff as well as Game Development Officers. This program is in addition to the Lightning Premiership Day that has already occurred earlier in the year. The Girls AFL 9s program will provide a perfect introduction to the game of AFL for many girls but also provide a perfect segway into the 6 week AFL Under 12 Girls Program the AFL Goldfields is running from 12th August. This is just one of the great initiatives shown by Dale. Dale is a passionate advocate of our game and takes every opportunity to engage students in physical activity knowing the health and self-esteem benefits of being involved and participating in football in a safe and enjoyable environment. Dale is a key driver in local school football as well as its promotion in the local community.

**Secondary School winner:**Danny Finn

**School:**Warrnambool College

**Winners Profile:**Danny has successfully implemented and assisted with the development of the Warrnambool College Bullants Sporting Academies; we have over 500 students involved in our sporting academies. Although Danny’s focus has been on the AFL teams the passion and enthusiasm he displayed has now meant that all sporting teams are badged under the Bullants Sporting Academy.

The history of the Bullants originated over 20 years ago when the Warrnambool High School football team was known as the Bullants. For many reasons this part of our schools history was lost/forgotten but through the encouragement of Danny – this part of our school’s history has been rekindled to form the strong Bullants Sporting Academies (across 10 sports).

Danny has also been a major contributor to the exciting new initiative – the Sporting Pathway Program (SPP) at our school. This new program will enable our students to have the opportunity to participate in high end strength and conditioning programs along with specific sporting sessions conducted by the best elite coaches located in the South West. This program has a high accountability factor where all students must maintain an Attitude and Effort level across all subjects. We strongly believe that academic achievement is heavily linked to the effort students put in and such a program can use the passion of sport to enable students to be the best possible student at Warrnambool College. Due to his passion for AFL, Danny wants to inspire others to have the opportunities that football has provided him. He can clearly articulate the similarities in AFL teams/clubs to that of successful schools and businesses. His values are closely linked to the way he coaches.