

# A walking legend of our great game

Todd Rann  
WACUA Life Member



*Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017*

Dear Todd,

On behalf of all of us at the Western Australian Cricket Umpires' Association, I want to congratulate you on surpassing the all-time senior game record today. This record has been with Mr. JP Robbins for over 40 years and with it now being with you, I doubt it will be beaten any time soon as you continue to dedicate your time to umpiring WA Premier Cricket.

While I could write in this letter all your statistics which I know you already keep, or continue to illustrate how thankful the WACUA is to have you, I want to take this letter in another direction. I want to thank you personally from the heart.

Todd, I honestly do not believe you fully understand or appreciate how much of a positive impact you've had not only on others umpiring careers, but their lives too. For me, the impact has been huge.

When I started umpiring cricket at the age of 14 and first met you when I was 17, your teachings, your presence, your compassion was immediately evident. While you may not remember it, I can still recall my first time meeting you at the Ern Halliday Seminar Camp where you made me feel like one of the lads. There were no sheep stations for you like there was with others and there was no talking just to your mates like many of your close peers did. For me I saw a professional umpire have a serious and vested interest to make sure everyone including the young me with chubby cheeks and a little bit more hair on the top of my head feel welcome and at home. That being said, I recall you having a crack about my hair line fairly early into our first conversation. It didn't stop me from moments later completing my first registration form to join the WACUA!

Throughout my early days of umpiring first grade and adulthood, I found life generally tough. I didn't know my place in the world, I certainly didn't know if umpiring was going to work out and was a bit of a misfit at home with both the younger and older brother closer to mum, dad and spending time with their respective partners where I hadn't met the 'one' yet. I was simply the misfit and there was young naïve me who would work themselves up so much thinking that if umpire the house down on Saturday I would have a good week following. You taught me early there is more to just getting the decisions right; there is mateship, there is respect, there is rapport, there is time. It put things into

perspective for me. It made me realise there was more to the game than just rocking up and umpiring. Rocking up does however require you to be there at least one hour before the start of play... It also made me realise that there was more to my life than just cricket.

I made mention in my wedding day speech that the umpires are my second family and I am so thankful for all their father like teachings. Todd, you were the one that remark was primarily for. Your teachings helped guide me through some challenging moments in life and I don't think I would be anywhere near the person, let alone umpire, I am today if it wasn't for you.



Once again congratulations on your milestone. You are without a shadow of a doubt, a walking legend of our great game. Please know that I will forever be in your debt for everything you have done for me over the past 12 years. I cannot wait to see what the next 12 will bring.

Kind Regards,

Handwritten signature of Trent Steenholdt in blue ink.

**Trent Steenholdt**  
WACUA President