

press clip

Footy tipping back in line at office cooler

By **MARK WORLEY**

FOOTBALL will come under the microscope this week as thousands of Tasmanian workers begin filling in their tipping sheets for the start of the AFL season.

At the University of Tasmania zoology department, 28 staff members and post-graduate students will take part in this year's tipping competition as part of a range of activities to build workplace camaraderie.

They are not alone.

A new national survey commissioned by footytips.com.au found 75 per cent of workers believe workplace tipping competitions improve office morale.

UTAS zoology laboratory manager Barry Rumbold says his department's tipping competition created plenty of friendly banter in the corridors and tea room.

"It is a unique demographic here in zoology, where half of the people are boring oldies like myself and the other half are young honours and PhD students," Mr

Rumbold said.

"It makes for interesting discussions and friendly rivalries and it does allow us to talk about something other than work."

The national footy tipping survey found 10 per cent of males admitted turning office tipping into a battle of the sexes.

Males were also twice as likely to believe their boss looked more favourably on the person who did well at tipping.

One per cent of married respondents said they would

cheat in a footy tipping competition compared with 5 per cent of single respondents.

But Mr Rumbold said his tipping competition was far from a serious affair. "We are only paying \$1 a week and half of the take is handed to our weekly winner," he said.

"We have to do that to look after the people who have no chance of winning the end-of-year prize. Trust me when I say that includes pretty much all of us."



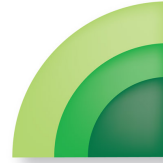
CAMARADERIE: Barry Rumbold organising the footy tipping in the zoology department.

Picture: SAM ROSEWARNE



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