

NORTHERN TERRITORY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1988 AUSTRALIAN BICENTENNIAL CARNIVAL TEAM ADELAIDE, 2ND - 5TH MARCH, 1988 SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONS

Northern Territory 19-20 (134) - Tasmania 10-8 (68)
Northern Territory 11-19 (85) - Australian Amateurs 9-8 (57)
Northern Territory 17-10 (112) - V.F.A. 9-13 (67)

Back Row: Bruce Farlow (Trainer), Graham Manouge (Team Manager), Kevin Wanganeen, Kelly O'Donnell, Adrian Moscheni, Michael Long, Brently Hughes, Paul Motlop, Michael Gregory (Property Steward), Costa Karaolias (Assistant Team Manager).
Middle Row: Cyril Rioli, Damien Berlo, Cadji Dunn, Dennis Dunn, Greg Bruce, Peter McGann, Bob Jones, Roy Cassetti, Rohan Helyar, Russell Jeffrey, Willie Roe, Michael Athanasiou, Willie Rioli.
Front Row: Kym Cook (Selector), Peter Atkinson (N.T. Director of Coaching), Ninny Briston, Eddie Cubillo, Joe Ah Mat, Michael McLean (Vice Captain), John Taylor (Coach), Maurice Rioli (Captain), Mark Motlop, Brian Long, Tony Vigona, Tony Shaw (President), Mike Crawshaw (General Manager).
Absent: Darryl Window (Selector).

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© Northern Territory Football League Dec 1995 written by David Lee Research by Michael Barfoot.

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FOREWORD

Since 1916, Territorians have been proud of their Australian Football Code, and even as far back as this date, unanswered football queries and unresolved arguments and bets have caused many a frustration.

Michael Barfoot and David Lee set about correcting this situation, and thanks to their tenacity and enthusiasm, football enthusiasts now have access to not only players, games, clubs, statistics etc but also the opportunity to rekindle the memories of the outstanding achievements of our footballers.

Michael, NTFL Football Manager since 1984, whilst being in an excellent position of having access to the records, nevertheless patiently compiled all these statistics in his private time. David, whose involvement in football dates back to 1952, when he was a member of St Marys first team, has made outstanding contributions via umpiring for three years, and officiating as a League Commissioner since 1976, his efforts being recognised when awarded NTFL Life Membership in 1993. Both these gentlemen are well qualified to produce this book and we owe them a huge debt.

The aim of this book is to create a permanent record of whatever statistics and peoples names the authors could identify. No doubt many hard workers for the NTFL and the Code have been missed, for this a sincere apology is offered. The Northern Territory Football League has acknowledged the printing and publishing of this History Book but has specifically stated it is not a partner in the publication nor has it any editorial responsibility.

As readers progress through the book I am confident many memories will be rekindled, for example:

The Tortoise and Hare half-time entertainment mile race in the 1981 Grand Final between Dave Arnold (Waratahs) and Simon Moreen (Wanderers).

Joe Daby winning the hurdle race at the Winnellie Greyhound Track at 5/2 on (beating Harold Anderson and George Ah Mat).

Robbie Muir planting a huge sweaty kiss on the lips of the beautiful NT News photographer standing on the Gardens Oval boundary during a game.

Leon 'the Fox' Gregory singing 'House of the Rising Sun' at the footy do's.

The Umpires threatening strike action because the Magpie Geese had dug dangerous holes in Gardens Oval No 2,

Bubba Tye and the Darwin boys preparing for their big Saturday NTFL games by spending Friday nights at the Wharf.

One word of warning to readers: the information supplied is not only incomplete but due to Cyclone Tracy and the passing of club people resulting in club records being lost, some information will be incorrect, and readers are invited to contact the NTFL office with any corrections which may be included in any further reprint.

The release of this book (details current to 31/3/95) fulfils this person's long held dream, and in extending the sincere thanks of all football followers in the Northern Territory to Michael and David, I commend purchase to any person who has been privileged to become involved in NT Football as a player, administrator or spectator.

TONY SHAW
NTFL Past President

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INTRODUCTION

This book has been written to give Territorians, new arrivals to Darwin and interested Football supporters throughout Australia an insight into the birth, growth and development of Australian Football in the Northern Territory. Although the book is focused mainly on Darwin football, it touches lightly on Australian Football in other NT Centres/Competitions i.e. Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Gore, Bathurst Island, the NT Football Association, Superules and Aboriginal Communities.

The book covers a wide range of topics from the games administration to the personalities, characters and families over the years, and also gives a historical look at each of the seven clubs, which now make up the NTFL competition. It will be handy to use as a reference on Club Premiership years, Nichols Medal winners and League Leading Goal Kickers. To the many players listed in Premiership and Representative teams, it will revive memories of mateships with teammates who were 'local' Territorians or players from the southern states.

The information contained in this book should give readers a greater knowledge and appreciation of Darwin and Territory football. Readers should appreciate that the information in this book has been very difficult in many instances not only to obtain, but to actually verify. Allowances should be made for inaccuracies.

*Flying high in the **NTFL** - Wanderers Graham Russell using an opponent's shoulder for leverage to take a spectacular mark during the 1982/83 Grand Final against St Marys at Gardens Oval*

History of the NTFL

1. BEGINNINGS

Australian Rules Football in Darwin spans a period of 79 years from 1916 to 1995. This chapter covers four distinct periods, taking into account the interruption, which caused the competition to be suspended for five seasons from 1941/42 to 1945/46 because of World War II.

The first period covers the turbulent early years to 1941/42 which were marred by 'walk offs' and 'racial undertones', the second from 1946/47 to 1949/50 when the game was re-established after World War II, the third from 1950/51 to 1973/74 during which the game expanded and developed following Darwin's population boom, and the fourth from 1975/76 to 1994/95 when the NTFL strengthened and stabilised after the minor interruption in 1974/75 following Cyclone Tracy's near total devastation of Darwin.

FIRST PERIOD FROM EARLY YEARS TO 1941/42

The first game of Australian Rules football was played in Darwin in 1916 and not 1913 as previously thought. An extract from the *Northern Territory Times* dated 10 February 1916 reported 'A meeting of townsmen interested in football was held in the Hotel Victoria on the 2nd inst. On the motion of Mr Bren seconded by Mr Marriman it was agreed that a match under Australian Rules be played on the cricket ground (Town Oval) on Saturday the 12th commencing at 4.00 pm. On the motion of Mr McGrath seconded by Mr Connolly the following were appointed a committee Messrs McDonald, McGrath, Marriman, Bren, Callan, Kirkpatrick, Menzies and Brown. Mr Lampe, Secretary of the Darwin Cricket Club kindly consented to allow the use of the cricket ground'.

The match went ahead on the Town Oval on 12 February 1916 between a Red and Blue team captained by R McDonald, and a Red and White team captained by R G Blair. Mr McDonald later became a Central Umpire and was the inaugural President of the Northern Territory Football League.

A further seven games were played in 1916 and the season ended on 1 April 1916. The body formed to organise the games was the Northern Territory Football Association whose Secretary was a livewire named Leonard Morrison. The Association apparently lapsed as no further reference of it appeared in the press.

The 1917 season began with a match on the Town Oval on New Years Day, when as reported in the *NT Times* 'Two scratch sides were picked. Those who were lucky enough to possess jerseys apparently opposed to those minus that useful garment. There was a fair attendance of interested spectators including a few ladies'.

Even in these early days of football, the fairer sex played an important part as supporters of clubs. It was a common thing to see dozens and dozens of girls around the boundary barracking for their teams. Further scratch matches were played on the Oval on 6 and 13 January, whilst a fourth such match between the Waratahs and Wanderers took place on Saturday 20 January. This game was won by Waratahs by the slight margin of six points, the final score being Waratahs 9.3. Wanderers 8.3.

The Northern Territory Football League was established in January 1917. The *NT Times* reporting that on Saturday 27 January, 'The first match under the auspices of the newly formed Northern Territory Football League took place on the Darwin Oval between Waratahs and Wanderers, captained respectively by Messrs George and Brophy. The former sported colours whilst the other team wore white'. That game, the first under the patronage of the NTFL was won by Wanderers 5.10 to Waratahs 6.1 Mr R McDonald was the Central Umpire and a collection for the Red Cross Fund taken up by Miss Florrie McKinnon totalled two pounds 13 shillings.

As mentioned earlier, Mr R McDonald was the League's first President, but was replaced early in the season by Mr H F Partridge. The inaugural Secretary was Mr H L Symons. One of the first acts taken by the League was to invite applications for the position of Central Umpire at a salary of 10 shillings per match. It would seem that a Mr Leonard was the successful applicant, for he umpired most of the remaining matches and received a favourable mention in the subsequent Annual Report. The League also decided that all proceeds from the matches would be handed to the Red Cross Fund after expenses had been deducted. At the end of the season, a total of 24 pounds one pence had been donated to the Fund, whilst an additional 47 pounds, three shillings 11 pence was collected at the matches by the Red Cross girls.

There were three teams in the competition namely Waratahs, Wanderers and Warriors and each team played eight matches. The 1917 Premiership was won by Wanderers who won seven games to Waratahs five. There were no Finals matches. Warriors failed to win a game in that inaugural season. The Warriors club was to later change its name to Vestey's. A three team competition was quite an achievement considering Darwin's population at this time was around 1 300, of which 50% were Chinese. The population lived mostly in the town area bordered by Mitchell Street, Knuckey Street, Bennett Street and Cavenagh Street, which stretched from Knuckey Street to past the present Civic Centre complex. Cavenagh Street was the busiest business area as it was occupied mostly by the Chinese population and became Darwin's Chinatown.

Wanderers went on to win four Premierships in a row, with Waratahs taking out their first Premiership in 1920/21 from Wanderers. Vestey's defeated Wanderers for the 1921/22 Premiership. Wanderers won the next two Premierships, with Vestey's successful in 1924/25 and 1925/26.

In these early years, football was played during the Wet Season on the Esplanade or Town Oval because it would have been impossible and dangerous to attempt to play on the rock hard surfaces during the Dry season, when there was no rain, which was required to keep the playing surfaces green and reasonably soft. Darwin football has continued to be played out of season with the rest of Australia, although turf ovals in Darwin are now the equal of any in Australia.

An important factor, which helped keep the game alive in Darwin, was the fact that the Territory was first under the control of South Australia and later taken over by the Commonwealth. Naturally, the bulk of Government employees under those Administrations were Australian Rules men as most were transferred from either Victoria or South Australia. This trend continued in later years as the bulk of Post Office and Telecom staff were mainly transferred to Darwin from South Australia.

The 'Giants' of Darwin's early football included a number of top southern states players such as Claude Stanlake (St Kilda), Attie and Alec Conlan (South Australia), Jimmie Monaghan (Western Australia) and Bob McDonald (South Australia). N W Barrett, a solicitor with

deformed arms was a brilliant athlete as well as a football administrator. He was a Melbourne University quarter mile record holder, played football with the Wanderers club, and later became President of the League (1919/20).

Others included Vic Lampe (Waratahs), Tom Harrison, and the five McMillan brothers (Neil, John, Max, Don, Billy) of Wanderers, Rueben Cooper and Vic Hansen (Vesteys). Oldtimers rate Rueben Cooper and Alec Conlan the outstanding players of the first few years. Cooper being the first coloured person to play football in Darwin. He learnt the game whilst at Prince Alfred College boarding school in South Australia, and was an outstanding defender as well as utility man. A profile of the Cooper Family of footballers appears in a later chapter of this book. Alec Conlan was a brilliant centreman/rover.

An interesting sideline to the early days of football in Darwin was that hundreds of pounds changed hands over the matches. Harry Witte, Bob McMillan, Tom Carey, George Farmer, Ernie Lee and Dave Brennan were amongst the biggest punters. Players often got a 'Spinaker' for playing a good game, and a quid a goal was common. Tom Harrison of Wanderers in a match against Vesteys was dead as a doornail until three quarter time when the cash went on. Tom kicked eight goals in the last quarter.

A look back into the history of the game shows that the formative years have often been dramatic but never dull. The infamous 'colour bar' during the 1926/27 season had repercussions throughout Darwin that never settled down until it was lifted in 1929. Even then, its effects lasted for many years.

The drama started during a football scratch match between teams representing Darwin and Katherine. The latter team walked off the ground during the third quarter and refused to continue the game. The Katherine team with the exception of one man consisted of coloured men viz Chinese and half-castes, many of whom played for the Vesteys team in the Darwin competition. The Katherine team claimed that their players were not getting a fair go from Umpire Allen McGuire. The score when this regrettable incident took place was 8.10 to 5.3 in favour of the Darwin team.

The walk off incident certainly sparked controversial action during a meeting of the Football League held a week later. The meeting was attended by the President Mr. Bowman, Vice President Mr. C M Clarke, Waratah delegates Messrs McKittrick and Olsen, Magpie delegates Conigrave and Watts, and Vesteys delegates Messrs Osbourne and Edwards.

It should be noted that Wanderers had withdrawn from the League from 1925/26 to 1928/29. Rovers were the replacement club in 1925/26 and Magpies from 1926/27 to 1928/29. A detail of Wanderer's withdrawal appears in the Club Histories section of this book.

At the NTFL League meeting held at the Club Hotel on Thursday 23 December 1926, Mr. McKittrick (Waratahs) said that he was instructed by his club in regard to the occurrence last Tuesday when the team representing Katherine walked off the field, to move 'that the Northern Territory Football League disband'. It was desired to form a new League with an altered Constitution providing for white teams only. Mr Olsen (Waratahs) seconded the motion pointing out that his club felt strongly on the matter.

History of the NTFL

Mr Edwards (Vesteys) opposed the motion saying there was nothing in what happened on Tuesday last. He stated that the team had done what any team who was getting a rough spin from the umpire would have done.

Mr Conigrave said that the Magpie club was wholly in accordance with Waratahs on the matter. The scratch match was under the control of the League and the team in walking off had insulted every white person connected with the game. At this stage, Mr Edwards (Vesteys) said he could see an organized attack was being made against the coloured team and he abruptly withdrew from the meeting.

Mr Osbourne (Vesteys) said he much regretted what the Katherine team had done, which after all included many of the Vesteys team. He had been a firm supporter of the Vesteys team since football first started, but he was disgusted with what had happened and would have nothing further to do with the team. He supported the motion.

Mr Watts (Magpies) said that his team was absolutely with Waratahs on the matter. The motion was put and carried (six votes to nil).

Following the disbandment of the Northern Territory Football League, a new North Australian Football League was established. The three clubs forming the new League were Waratahs, Magpies and a new white club Buffaloes, all of whom were registered as teams under the old League. The registered colours of the Buffaloes being two blues.

The North Australian Football League in 1929 buried the hatchet regarding coloureds playing, and this kind of situation has never occurred again. However, the North Australian Football League never really recovered from the colour bar incident, and its demise continued into the 1934/35 season, when Waratahs declined to take the field under a coloured umpire Mr Barney McGuinness, who had been appointed by the Umpires Appointments Board. Waratahs called an emergency meeting of the League.

A report of that meeting which appeared in *the Northern Standard* newspaper on 15 January 1935 is as follows: 'Mr Lampe (Waratahs) in opening the discussion said that the Umpires Appointment Board had asked if the clubs were prepared to play under McGuinness and a vote had been taken, resulting in eight to two against. Mr Ah Mat (Buffaloes) said the League appointed these men to select an Umpire and when they did it was Waratahs who object to it. They evidently wish to go back to the old idea when the clubs selected the Umpire. Mr Murray (Life Member) moved and Mr Hilditch (Life Member) seconded that the League do not interfere in the appointment of the Umpires as selected by the Umpires Appointment Board.

Mr Lampe (Waratah) said the resolution meant that the Umpires Appointment Board would have to select another Umpire or Waratahs would refuse to play and thus be disqualified'.

Events, which followed, prevented Waratahs' threat not to play being carried out by the club. A meeting of the Umpires Appointment Board was held at the Club Hotel on Saturday afternoon. The meeting was called to consider a letter received from Umpire Mr B S McGuinness. It read 'I, the undersigned give notice that it is my birthday today, and therefore I will not be available to umpire today's match between Buffaloes and Waratahs'. The letter was marked urgent and was delivered to the Secretary of the League at 11.40 am.

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Mr Murray moved and seconded by Mr Ruthven 'that the Umpires Appointment Board recommend to the League the deregistration of Mr B S McGuinness as a Central Umpire'. The motion was carried.

Brother A A Smith of Bathurst Island was then appointed as Central Umpire for the match, which Waratahs lost to Buffaloes.

Probably the greatest sensation occurred in the same year, the 1934/35 Grand Final, when Waratahs refused to play Buffaloes under Umpire Frank Cook. Waratahs had advised the League that unless their choice of Umpire Kelly was appointed for the Grand Final Waratahs would not take the field.

On the Saturday, the Buffaloes team ran onto the ground. Waratahs did not turn up, Umpire Cook bounced the ball, a Buffalo player grabbed it and kicked a goal. Buffaloes were then awarded the game and the Premiership.

The write-up in *the Northern Standard* newspaper on 16 April 1935 read: 'Football Fizzle by Bob Murray "Owing to the 1934/35 Football season finishing the way it did, through the Waratah Football club refusing to meet the Buffaloes in the Final for the Premiership under Umpire Frank Cook or Ernie Tapper it has caused a great deal of controversy. The Waratahs are blamed, also the League, the Umpires Board and individuals. To my way of thinking, the Waratah Football club for many years dominated the League just as they wish today, but this domination has come to an end. Now like children, they say if I, can't get my way I won't play".

Dealing with Mr Hardy's statement that Mr Cook would not be able to control the game, I would like to point out that during the present season, Mr Cook umpired six matches, Mr Kelly five, Mr Eames four, Brother Smith three, Mr Tapper two and Mr McGuinness one. Umpire Cook's matches were never marred by brawls or reportable breaches. Mr Kelly at the start of the season in a Waratahs vs Buffaloes match had to report a brawl between players Hassett and Tybell. In a couple of matches when Kelly or Eames umpired, player Monk was also reported. When Tapper umpired there was also a brawl.

So no one can come to any other conclusion that Mr Cook is more capable of controlling the game than Mr Kelly. No one team or two for that matter should dominate the League and the favourite winter pastime should go on under clean conditions. Report has it that only three or four of the Waratah team had caused the trouble. Football will be played in Darwin when the troublemakers are no more'.

As a result of the traumas, the North Australian Football League disbanded. The *Northern Standard* newspaper dated 15 October 1935 reported 'The Waratah and Garrison Football clubs have resigned from the North Australian Football League and have formed a new Australian Rules Football League known as the Darwin Football League. The reasons given by the Waratah and Garrison clubs for their withdrawal from the League was that they are dissatisfied with the voting system at League meetings. It is contended by the two breakaway clubs that only the delegates from the various clubs and the Chairman of the League be entitled to vote, and that the votes of Life Members should be cancelled'.

On the 25 October 1935, *the Northern Standard* reported 'A meeting was held at the Victoria Hotel last evening to discuss the formation of a third team to compete in the NT Football League competition, and was attended by a good crowd of enthusiasts. Behind the old League is all the sentiment and tradition covering Darwin football for almost 25 years. Mr McKay said the object of calling it was to form a third team, and after discussion it was decided on a motion moved by Mr Hilditch (Life Member) and seconded by Mr McKay (Wanderers) that a third team to be named the Wallaby Football club be formed. The motion was carried unanimously'.

The breakaway League called the Darwin Football League also comprised three teams: Waratahs, Garrison (Army personnel) and Palmerston. The Darwin Football League played a round robin competition of six matches including a Final, while the NTFL competition resulted in a win to Buffaloes.

At a League meeting held on 9 October 1936, a motion to abolish the vote of Life Members was carried unanimously. Both Waratahs and Garrison were re-admitted to the League following a meeting of the NTFL on Thursday 15 October 1936. But the upheavals took their toll on Wanderers and they were forced to resign from the League because of lack of finance and shortage of players. Wanderers were re-admitted to the League in 1946/47 after World War II.

The 1930's saw the emergence of the Buffaloes 'family' names of Bonson, Ah Mat, Lew Fatt, Angeles, Butler and Damaso. It was interesting to see two Chinese in the Buffaloes team, Ted and Harry Moo who were brothers from a family of 14. The Moo brothers followed Jack Lee from the Vesteys team in the mid 1920's to be amongst the first Chinese to play Australian Rules in Australia.

During these early years from 1916 to 1941/42, a number of new clubs in the competition came and went. Rovers, Magpies, Wallabies and a variety of Service teams such as Air Force, Garrison, Mobile (1939/40 Premiers), Artillery, Machine Gunners, Army, Navy and RAAF graced the competition from time to time.

The formation of the Services teams resulted from the build-up of the defence forces in Darwin. The strategic importance of Darwin and its Port had been recognised long before World War II. Darwin's population consequently increased from around 1 300 in 1917 to 1 570 in 1933, 2 537 in 1937, 2 968 in 1938 and 3 653 in 1939.

The NTFL competition was suspended on 16 January 1942 by League Secretary J Nichols and no football was played until the 1946/47 season. The bombing of Darwin by Japanese aircraft occurred in February 1942.

During this formative and sometimes turbulent early period of Darwin football Vesteys/Buffaloes won eight Premierships, Waratahs seven, Wanderers six, Garrison two, Magpies and Mobile one each.

History of the NTFL

Wanderers Football Club-Premiers 1917 and 1918

*Top Row - R Toupein (V/Pres), R Thomas. E Marshall, P O 'Redly, G Lowe, G Lawrence, J Quigley Second Row - J Levick, E West, J Spain, W McMillan Third Row - J Rodgers (V/Pres). D McMillan (v/c), J Parer (Patron), T Harrison (c), (Pres), L Hocking. R Bowman (V/Pres):
Bottom Row - E Lee (V/Pres). R Craig. N McMillan, W Maxwell*

*McMillan, M McMillan, R Sibley, F
D Watts*

Vesteys Football Club - Premiers 1921/22

*Back - G Wed& Joe McGuinness, H Nuttall, R Green, K Dempsey, B Anthony, G Tindall Middle - H Nelson, F Harris, Barnett
Front - T Graham, 'Putt' Ah Mat, D Presley, Poncie Cubillo*

Reubin Cooper (c). H Hazelbane, A

History of the NTFL

Waratah Football Club .Premiers 1928/29

Back - S Ewart, B Bryce, K Springwell, N Macrides, R Lane, T Leaver, R Tyrrell, unknown, T Shepherd Middle - F Morris, J Main, G Webb (Pres). C Green (c),unknown, D Caldwell, N Jarvie

Front - P Binet, T Cole

(Boy with Premiership Cup - Austin Asche, current NTFL Patron and Administrator of the Northern Territory)

*Buffaloes Football **Club. Premiers 1933/34***

Back - B Damaso, B Muir, R Roman, L Cubillo, Joe McGuinness, G Tybell, V McGuinness

Middle - D Butler, W Lew Fatt, B McLennan, J Sevallor

Front - D Spain, H 'Parrot' Moo, W 'Putt' Ah Mat (c), E Cubillo, J Lee (Young boy - Gilbert Clarke)

History of the NTFL

League Presidents, Secretaries, Life Members 1916/17 to 1941/42

Season	President	Secretary	Life Member
1916	R McDonald	L Morrison	
1917/18	R McDonald	H L Symons	
	F H Partridge		
1918/19	J J Parer	P O'Reilly	
	P Stewart		
1919/20	N W Barrett	P Stewart	
	M Harris		
1920/21	W N Skey	J W Phillips	
1921/22	J J Parer	J W Phillips	
	C A Dempsey	A Walker	
1922/23	G Webb	A Walker	G F Webb/R H McDonald
	R Robson		
1923/24	Col C B Story	R Robson	
	J R Davis		
1924/25	Col C B Story	J R Davis	
	E A Houghton		
1925/26	W Loftes	E W Handley	
1926/27	R H Bowman	A E Coutanche	F J King/F H Partridge
		R H Bowman/J J Harris	
1927 R	H Bowman	R S Leydin	W McMillan/V L Lampe
1927/28	J W Young	L Ashton	J J Parer
1928/29	F J King	I Caird	T J Worgan
1929 T	J Worgan	L Muller	
1929/30	T J Worgan	L Muller	R French
	L Moors		
1930/31	T J Worgan	L Moors	D McMillan
1931/32	B Browning	J M Henderson	R Hilditch
1932/33	J S Hams	J W Nichols	R (Bob) Murray
1933/34	R Toupein	J W Nichols	J W Nichols
1934/35	R Toupein	J W Nichols	J W Young
1935/36	R Toupein	J W Nichols	
1936/37	R Toupein	J W Nichols	
1937/38	R Toupein	J W Nichols	A A Tansell
1938/39	A A Tansell	J W Nichols	R Ryder
1939/40	A A Tansell	J W Nichols	D Bonson Snr
1940/41	A A Tansell	J W Nichols	
1941/42	A A Tansell	J W Nichols	

Competition suspended till 1946/47 due to World War II.

M.B.E

Bill Dempsey	11.6.76
Bill Roe	.78
Bro John Pye	
Vic Ludwig	.6.97

History of the NTFL

SECOND PERIOD FROM 1946/47 TO 1949/50

Prior to the bombing of Darwin in February 1942, most of the town's civilian population was evacuated south to capital cities in all states, Katherine and Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. Some chose to stay south permanently, but a big percentage returned 'home' and together with Service personnel and new arrivals made up Darwin's population of 2 538 in 1947.

As could be imagined, Darwin had to start its rebuilding program to accommodate the return of the 'locals' and new arrivals. The Government departments were starting to expand, and the population was slowly increasing because of more public servants and additional staff for the growing and new businesses required to service the newcomers. The city residential area extended along Mitchell and Smith Streets, past Daly Street to the old Darwin Hospital site on Lambell Terrace and Larrakeyah. The population started to move into parts of Stuart Park, Parap and Fannie Bay.

The Northern Territory Football League wasted no time in resuming its Australian Rules competition, and the 1946/47 season saw the original three clubs Buffaloes, Waratahs and Wanderers battling it out with new teams RAAF, RAN and Army. Army withdrew from the competition after 21 December 1946. The 1946/47 Premiership was won by Waratahs 13.11 to Buffaloes 9.6.

Noel Lynagh was elected League Secretary for the 1946/47 and 1947/48 seasons, but as he was also a current Waratah player he stood down from the position at the end of 1947/48. He was reelected to the position at the end of his playing career and was League Secretary for six seasons from 1952/53 to 1957/58. Mr John Wesley Nichols followed up his previous pre-war term as League Secretary by becoming President from 1948/49 to 1952/53.

The 1947/48 season saw a combined Army/Navy team and a new team Winnellie replace the RAAF team. Waratahs were again Premiers with Buffaloes runners-up.

Army and RAAF became a combined team in 1948/49, whilst Navy replaced the Winnellie team. Buffaloes became Premiers with a 14.12 to 7.8 win over Wanderers. This Premiership started Buffaloes run of four consecutive Premierships.

The 1949/50 season saw the Army/RAAF and Navy teams replaced by a Services team and Buffaloes winning their second successive Premiership.

The Buffalo 'name' players in this era were Ali Ah Mat, Gilbert Clarke, Frank Perez, Alfie May, Sabbo Briston, Steve Abala Sr, Leo Pon, Bill Muir and Joe Clarke, whilst the Waratahs stalwarts were Ray Graffin, Leo Hickey, John Wilkshire, Pat Skelly, John O'Callaghan and Ray Ball.

Buffaloes produced two Nichols Medal winners in Leo Pon (46/47) and Joe Sarib (49/50), Army/ Navy one Bob Daniell (47/48) and Army/RAAF one Andy Nation (48/49). Joe Sarib was the first and only Chinese footballer to win the Nichols Medal.

THIRD PERIOD FROM 1950/51 TO 1973/74

Darwin's population increased considerably during this period was 8 071 in 1954, 12 000 in 1961, 21 440 in 1966, 37 060 in 1971 and 46 656 in 1974. Stuart Park and Parap became full suburbs in the early 1950's. Fannie Bay, Ludmilla, Nightcliff, Rapid Creek and Millner became suburbs between 1950 and 1960. Alawa and Jingili sprung up in the 1960's, whilst the 1970's heralded in new suburbs of Moil, Wagaman, Wanguri, Nakara and Tiwi.

The early 1950's saw the formation of two new clubs Works and Housing (now Nightcliff) and Saint Marys. The mid 1950's saw the introduction of the Reserves and Senior Colts competitions, and the mid 1960's ushered in the start of the Junior Colts competition.

With the formation of two new clubs and the introduction of the Reserves and Senior Colts competition, the 1950's was a real growth period for the NTFL which now had five clubs fielding teams in the League, Reserves and Senior Colts competitions. However, with Darwin's population increase continuing through the 1960's and 70's, there were signs for a further expansion of the NTFL competition.

The most significant development in the competition came with the introduction of the sixth club North Darwin in 1972/73. Initially, North Darwin were admitted to the Reserves Grade in 1971. The original team, were known as Internationals and were mostly soccer players. In their first couple of seasons, North Darwin became the whipping boys of the League.

Every other club set goal-scoring records against them. So one-sided were these early games that feats such as remaining scoreless against Wanderers and having 51.26 kicked against them by Darwin will remain in the record books.

However, within a decade North Darwin achieved the seemingly impossible after having finished their first two seasons as 'wooden spooners'. This transformation will be shown in the next period 1975/76 to 1994/95 and the profile on the club's history.

Following the destruction of Darwin by Cyclone Tracy in December 1974, the NTFL's 1974/75 season was formally suspended and the Darwin Football Association was formed. Once again, most of Darwin's families were evacuated to southern cities whilst Darwin was being rebuilt in 1975.

At a public meeting convened by the Director of Emergency Services a Sporting and Entertainment committee was formed. The Darwin Football Association was regarded as a member sport of this committee, and during it's short life contributed substantially to the improved morale of life in Darwin.

The six NTFL clubs Darwin, Nightcliff, North Darwin, St Marys, Wanderers and Waratahs constituted the Association with Mr Hunter Harrison President and Mr Peter Atkinson Secretary. There were five rounds of football played plus the usual First and Second Semi Finals, a Preliminary and Grand Final. Wanderers defeated Waratahs in the first Semi Final and progressed to the Preliminary Final. Darwin defeated Nightcliff in the Second Semi Final and progressed straight to the Grand Final with Nightcliff meeting Wanderers in the Preliminary Final.

History of the NTFL

Nightcliff defeated Wanderers in the Preliminary Final and went on to defeat Darwin in a close Grand Final (8.10 to 7.10) which compensated to some extent for the club's three point loss to Waratahs in the 1973/74 NTFL Grand Final. Coaches of the respective teams were Tony Shaw (Nightcliff) and Nungah Ah Mat (Darwin). The Grand Final was umpired by Murray Ducker from the South Australian National Football League.

History will show that although Nightcliff haven't won too many NTFL Premierships, the club did win the one and only Darwin Football Association Premiership. Match details of the game played on Saturday 22rid March 1975 were as follows:

Nightcliff	3.1	4.5	7.9	8.10 (58)
Darwin	2.2	5.5	6.5	7.10 (52)
Best Players				
Nightcliff	T Dragun, M Motlop, T Shaw, K Pattinson, N Watson			
Darwin	N Hagen, B Damaso, R Quall, J McLeod, G Butler			
Goalkickers				
Nightcliff	T Dragun 3; N Watson 2; K Pattinson, C Suradi, M Maloney 1 each			
Darwin	M Harris 2; D Stokes, P Quail, J Patterson, N Hagen, R Cooper 1 each			

Buffaloes/Darwin and St Marys dominated the competition between 1950/51 and 1973/74, winning 17 of the 24 Premierships decided. Buffaloes/Darwin won nine Premierships, Saint Marys eight, Works & Housing/Nightcliff three, Waratahs three and Wanderers one.

Garrison Football Club - 1934/35 (One of the many Services teams in the NTFL prior to WW II - Garrison were NTFL Premiers in 1936/37 & 1938/39)

Back - unknown, H Derbridge, J Kollias, 'Curly' Hatfield, N Kollias, G Sulley, F Smith, E Gallagher

Middle - A Campbell, J Richards, H Kaufman, L Monk, B Whittam (c), Lt J Gilchrist (Sportsmaster), H Hunt, F Winter, E Pickersgill

Front - B Shewring, B Livesly, A Hosking, B Green, D Whitaker

History of the NTFL

FOURTH PERIOD FROM 1975/76 TO 1994/95

Darwin's population bounced back to over 50 000 in 1979 following the city's reconstruction in 1975, and the latest count in 1994 showed a figure in excess of 78 000. New suburbs introduced were Anula, Wulagi, Leanyer, Malak, Karama, Woodleigh Gardens and a 'satellite city' at Palmerston. Rural areas such as Howard Springs and Humpty Doo were also becoming more populated (11 113 in 1994).

A new Junior competition, the Under 15's (now Under 14's) was started in 1978/79. The seventh and last club to be established was Southern Districts which was admitted to the NTFL in 1987/ 88. The NTFL competition today consists of seven clubs, with teams in League, Reserves, Under 18, Under 16 and Under 14. A detail of each Club's history appears in the following chapter.

The NTFL entered an exciting and progressive period from 1975/76 to its present standing as the top sporting competition in Darwin. Some of the important highlights include:

The 'Cinderella' run of North Darwin from Wooden Spooners in 1972/73 and 1973/74 to Runners-up in 1975/76, 1977/78 and 1979/80, Third in 1976/77 and 1978/79 and Premiers in 1980/81

The visit of the Queen who was the official guest at the 1976/77 Grand Final won by Waratahs 10.15 to St Marys 8.14. An omen for the outcome of the match was that the Queen arrived at the Oval wearing a red and white outfit, which happened to be the colours of the Waratah guernseys.

The NTFL given the privilege of hosting the prestigious TEAL Cup competition in 1983 at Gardens Oval and in 1991 at Marrara Football Park

- The move of NTFL Headquarters from Gardens Oval to Football Park Marrara in 1991

The start of Australia Day Representative matches in 1985 between the NTFL and VFL/AFL and SANFL clubs

Hosting the Fosters Cup match between Collingwood and West Coast Eagles in February 1992, 1996, 1999 and 2000.

- The increase in numbers of NTFL "local" players playing in the AFL competition.

- Hosting the Aboriginal All Stars versus Collingwood match in February 1994.

St Marys have dominated the competition since 1975/76 having won 12 of the 20 Premierships decided. Darwin and Wanderers won three Premierships each, North Darwin and Waratahs one each. Nightcliff and Southern Districts have not won a Premiership during this period.

The 1978/79 season saw St Marys create a record which will remain for many years, when the Club won Premierships in all five Grades of League, Reserves, U-18, U-16 and U-14.

History of the NTFL

NTFL Presidents, Secretary, General Manager, Life Members **1946/47 to 1994/95**

Season	President	Secretary	Life Member
1946/47	J Lyons	N Lynagh	
1947/48		N Lynagh	
1948/49	J W Nichols	N Lynagh	
1949/50	J W Nichols	Rev H Irving	
1950/51	J W Nichols	D B Chapman	
1951/52	J W Nichols	D B Chapman	
1952/53	J W Nichols	N Lynagh	
1953/54	J W Nichols	N Lynagh	Note -No Life Memberships awarded by the NTFL between 1946 and 1960
1954/55	J Harman	N Lynagh	
1955/56	J Harman	N Lynagh	
1956/57	J Harman	N Lynagh	
1957/58	D Dowd	N Lynagh	
1958/59	D Dowd	L A Nugent	
1959/60	D Dowd	N E Davies	
1960/61	J Ravenscroft	B J Bren	N Lynagh, L Pon, M AhMat
1961/62	J Ravenscroft	D J Platt	F J Markos
1962/63	J Ravenscroft	M Hamilton	G Hallett
1963/64	J Ravenscroft	K Reid	M Lee
1964/65	H C Harrison	R M Herrick	J Ravenscroft
1965/66	B Tillett	A Biach	J Ah Kit
1966/67	T Lightman/J Jenkins	R.A Hanckel	
1967/68	A Biach	R Percz	D Bonson Jut, P Keating, G Hazelbane
1968/69	E Chambers	R Perez	J Jenkins, V Ludwig
1969/70	H C Harrison	R Perez	H C Harrison, W Lew Fatt, T McKie
1970/71	H C Harrison	R Perez	R Butler, D Kantilla
1971/72	H C Harrison	R Perez	W Roe
1972/73	H C Harrison	H E Gundersen	H E Gundersen
1973/74	H C Harrison	D Zehender	J Larcombe, R Cooper
1974/75	H C Harrison	Competition suspended - Cyclone Tracy	
1975/76	H C Harrison	K Manhire	
1976/77	H C Harrison	K Manhire	K Manhire, K O'Farrell
1977/78	D Zehender	D D Window	R Edwards, W McLean
1978/79	K Manhire	D D Window	J Haritos
1979/80	K Manhire	D D Window	P Leverence, F Griffen
1980/81	H C Harrison	D D Window	
1981/82	H C Harrison	D D Window	R Symonds, S Clarke
1982/83	H C Harrison	D D Window	B Deslandes, K J Bonson
1983/84	H C Harrison	D D Window	D D Window, S Abala
1984/85	H C Harrison	D D Window	P Ellis, C Lew Fatt
President		General Manager	
1985/86	H C Harrison	A J Hill	E C Evans, R Y Wing
1986/87	H C Harrison	A J Hill	A T Shaw
1987/88	A T Shaw	M Crawshaw	
1988/89	A T Shaw	M Crawshaw	
1989/90	A T Shaw	M Crawshaw	C Suradi, J Damaso
1990/91	A T Shaw	M Crawshaw	J Mayo
1991/92	A T Shaw	M Crawshaw	B Moroney, P Hardy
1992/93	A T Shaw	M Crawshaw	D Lee
1993/94	A T Shaw	H Johns	
1994/95	R G Buckley	H Johns	
1995/96	R G Buckley	E Geracitano	P.C Atkinson
1996/97	R G Buckley	R Kingston	C.Nickels
	B Moroney		
1997/98	A.T Shaw	R Kingston	K.J Taylor
1998/99	R Norman	G Trappett	
1999/00	R Norman	G Trappett/C Natt	F Brimson
2000/01	B Elix	C Natt	
2001/02	B Elix	C Natt	

2. STRUCTURE OF THE NTFL

The structure of the NTFL has developed over the years from the 1920's and 1930's when the President, Vice Presidents, Club Delegates and Life Members with voting rights administered the game. From the 1940's to 1984/85, the game was controlled by a President, Vice President, Executive Committee and Club delegates, and finally in 1985/86, the present structure shown in the following paragraph was established.

The Northern Territory Football League (NTFL) today comprises the seven League Club Presidents of Darwin, Nightcliff, North Darwin, Saint Marys, Southern Districts, Wanderers and Waratahs, and the President of the League (who holds office for three years).

Prior to moving into office premises in the Hunter Harrison Stand at Gardens Oval in 1979, the NTFL did not have a permanent office to hold meetings. Meetings were held at the MLC Building in Smith Street, or wherever the President of the time was able to arrange a suitable venue. The move to Football Park Marrara in 1991 was the answer to a President's dream, as the NTFL now has a permanent home.

The NTFL operates within the framework of its Constitution which cannot be amended, added to, or rescinded, except at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting of the League, by resolution approved by at least two-thirds of the persons present who are entitled to vote. The President has a casting vote only at league meetings, except for motions moved on behalf of the Board where he may exercise a deliberative vote.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors consisting of a President, Vice-President and not more than five other Directors, has the responsibility of managing and conducting the affairs of the League and attaining its objectives. The President has a deliberative vote in Board meetings and where necessary also a casting vote. The term of office of a person elected is three years. No person who holds any official position with a club is eligible for election as a Director.

The NTFL has gone through the following significant changes since 1980:

1980	NTFL joins NAFC as full voting member
1981	appointment of a full-time Administrative Officer
1982	appointment of full-time Coaching Director
1985/86	establishment of Board of Directors and appointment of General Manager
1991	move of NTFL Headquarters to Football Park Marrara (built by Norbuilt and totally funded by the NT Government)

The end result of the changes is that the NTFL has become a true professional body and a leader in the field of sports administration.

History of the NTFL

NTFL Board of Directors from 1985/86 to 1994/95

1985/86	President	H Harrison
	Directors	P Blake, K Cook, P Dabovich, B Deslandes, R McHenry, D Window
1986/87	President	H Harrison
	Directors	K Cook, B Deslandes, R McHenry, N Philip, J Sullivan, D Window
1987/88	President	A T Shaw
	Directors	K Cook, H Harrison, N Russell, G Stewart, D Window, M Crawshaw
1988/89	President	A T Shaw
	Directors	K Cook, H Harrison, B Loan, B Moroney, N Russell, D Window
1989/90	President	A T Shaw
	Directors	W Bastian, H Harrison, B Moroney, K Naughton, N Russell, D Window
1990/91	President	A T Shaw
	Directors	W Bastian, F Brimson, J Durnian, H Harrison, B Moroney, D Window
1991/92	President	A T Shaw
	Directors	W Bastian, F Brimson, H Harrison, B Moroney, K Naughton, D Window
1992/93	President	A T Shaw
	Directors	F Brimson, C James, B Moroney, K Naughton, G Nourse, D Window
1993/94	President	A T Shaw
	Directors	F Brimson, C James, K Kroeger, B Moroney, K Naughton, D Window
1994/95	President	R G Buckley
	Directors	F Brimson, C James, K Kroeger, B Moroney, P Callaghan, D Window
1995/96	President	R.G Buckley
	Directors	F Brimson, K Kroeger (res), B Moroney, D Window, D Beggs
1996/97	President	R Buckley*
	Directors	B Moroney, D Window, D Beggs, K Kroeger, J Sinclair, I Campbell
1997/98	President	A.T Shaw
	Directors	B Moroney, I Campbell, D Window, D Masters, P Lancaster, R Trowbridge, I Butterworth (res), G Cavanagh
1998/99	President	R Norman
	Directors	B Moroney, A Goody, P Lancaster, R Trowbridge, D Window, D Masters, R Elix, I Campbell
1999/00	President	R Norman
	Directors	B Moroney, D Window, I Campbell, T Shaw, R Elix, A Goody, P Lancaster, D Masters*, D De Silva, R Trowbridge*
2000/01	Presidents	
	Directors	
2001/02	President	
	Directors	

NAFC MERIT AWARDS

These awards were given by the National Australian Football Council in recognition of the contribution by individuals towards the betterment and development of Australian Football in the Northern Territory:

1972	H C Harrison
1982	D Newman (CAFL)
1983	V S Ludwig
1984	J Pye Br (Tiwi Island FL)
1987	B Deslandes
1988	F J Griffin
1989	P Leverence
1990	J Damaso
1991	D Window - P C Atkinson
1994	J Amadio (CAFL)
1995	AT Shaw
1996	T West
1997	C Dean (CAFL)

NT GOVERNMENT HALL OF CHAMPIONS

On 1st May 1997 the N.T Government introduced hall of championships. Of the inaugural (ten) 10 people, three Australian Rules Footballers were elected:

Maurice Rioli Bill Dempsey David Kantilla

History of the NTFL

* resigned

NTFL Club Presidents – 1946/47 to 1994/95

Season	Posn	DARWIN President	Posn	WANDERERS President	Posn	WARATAHS President
1946/47	2	T Angeles	5		1	K Crooks
1947/48	2	T Angeles	3		1	G Holdon
1948/49	1	A White	2		3	
1949/50	1		2		4	J Mills
1950/51	1	H Collins	3		2	
1951/52	1	H Collins	2	F Richardson	4	
1952/53	2	T Angeles	3	G Chamber	1	W Fraser
1953/54	2	T Angeles	5	C Chambers	1	W Fraser
1954/55	2	T Angeles	5	G Hendy	3	
1955/56	3	T Angeles	5		2	B Lyons
1956/57	2	T Angeles	5		4	B Lyons
1957/58	4	T Angeles	1	J Roberts	5	B Lyons
1958/59	2	J Dela Cruz	4	J Roberts	5	N Lynagh
1959/60	2	J Dela Cruz	3	J Roberts	5	N Lynagh
1960/61	5	G Tye	3	J Roberts	4	N Lynagh
1961/62	2		4	W Sholze	5	
1962/63	1		4	W Sholze	5	
1963/64	1		5	W Sholze	4	L Poulter
1964/65	2	J Dela Cruz	5	J Markos	4	L Poulter
1965/66	3	J Marron	5	S Clarke	4	L Poulter
1966/67	2	J Marron/V Birch	5	J Atkins	4	L Poulter
1967/68	1	J Marron	5	J Markos	4	S Murphy
1968/69	1	J Marron	5	P Leverance	4	S Murphy
1969/70	1	J Marron	5	R Norman	4	S Murphy
1970/71	1	A Rossetto	5		3	S Murphy
1971/72	2	B Moroney	5	P Turnbull	3	S Murphy
1972/73	1	R Biddell	5	P Leverance	3	J Bennett
1973/74	3	R Biddell	5	R Norman	1	J Bennett
1974/75		- Competition suspended - Cyclone Tracy				
1975/76	1	R Wing	5	P Blake	6	P Murphy
1976/77	4	R Wing	6	M Bound	1	R Griffiths
1977/78	5	R Wing	4	P Baron	6	P Murphy
1978/79	4	R Wing	5	P Baron	6	P Murphy
1979/80	1	R Wing	6	J Markos	4	R Baker
1980/81	4	R Wing	2	A McMaster	6	R Baker
1981/82	4	R Wing	1	A McMaster	5	R Baker
1982/83	3	R Wing	1	J Denzin	6	R Baker
1983/84	2	B McLean	3	R Day	6	G Stewart
1984/85	3	R Wing	2	R Day	6	G Stewart
1985/86	5	N Balke	3	T Geracitano	4	R Baker
1986/87	2	G Manouge	3	P Leverance	5	R Baker
1987/88	2	G Manouge	5	P Leverance	6	R Baker
1988/89	1	B McLean	2	P Leverance	7	R Baker

History of the NTFL

NTFL Club Presidents 1946/47 to 1994/95 (continued)

Season	Posn	DARWIN President	Posn	WANDERERS President	Posn	WARATAHS President
1989/90	2	B McLean	7	P Leverence	4	R Baker
1990/91	2	B McLean	5	M Murdoch	4	R Baker
1991/92	2	B McLean	4	J Thiele	3	R Baker
1992/93	5	B McLean	1	A McMaster	3	P Murphy
1993/94	2	B McLean	5	A McMaster	7	P Murphy
1994/95	2	M Crossin	4	A McMaster	5	J Scott
1995/96	3	M Crossin	4	A McMaster	5	J Scott
1996/97	7	G Dupry	4	T Conlan	2	J Scott
				G Trappett		
1997/98	7	G Dupry	3	J Rykiert	3	D Hogan
1998/99	5	F Ahmat	7	S Olsson	1	J Kerr
1999/00	5	F Ahmat	7	S Olsson	1	J Kerr/A Johnston
2000/01	2	F Ahmat	7	S Olsson	6	B Jenner
2001/02	5	F Ahmat	7	D Totham	3	R Fauntleroy/A Johnston

*Buffaloes Football Club - Runners-up
1946/47*

*Buck - G Clarke, B Muir, 'Slim' Taylor,
B John.e, W Lee, G Liveris, All Ah Mat,
M Wells, W Clarke,*

D Bonson Sr

*Middle - D Butler, Joe Clarke, S Briston,
R Chin, W Lew Fatt, G Hazelbane, T
Angeles, C Moo*

*Front - Ankin Ah Mat, L Liveris, L Pon
(c), L McIlroy, D Graham*

History of the NTFL

NTFL Club Presidents - 1950/51 to 1994/95

Season	Nightcliff		St Marys		North Darwin	
	Posn	President	Posn	President	Posn	President
Note- Nightcliff established in 1950/51 (Works and Housing)						
		St Marys	"	1952/53		
		Nth Darwin	"	1972/73		
		Sthn Districts	"	1987/88		
1950/51	5					
1951/52	3	E Chambers				
1952/53	5	A Bennett	4	W Graham		
1953/54	4	J Taylor	3	G Ryall		
		D Anderson				
1954/55	4	J King	1	G Ryall		
1955/56	4	J King	1	J Kilmartin		
1956/57	1	J King	3	J Kilmartin		
1957/58	2	A Bennett	3	J Harney		
		D Kilpatrick				
1958/59	3	C B Johnston	1	T Strickland		
1959/60	4	P Thomas	1	B Ivinson		
1960/61	1	J Wilkshire	2	B Ivinson		
1961/62	3		1	T Strickland		
1962/63	3	S Clark	2	T Strickland		
1963/64	3	S Clark	2	V Ludwig		
1964/65	1	S Clark	3	V Ludwig		
1965/66	2	S Clark	1	V Ludwig		
1966/67	3	F Copley	1	V Ludwig		
1967/68	3	K Anderson	2	V Ludwig		
1968/69	3	K Anderson	2	V Ludwig		
1969/70	3	J Jones	2	V Ludwig		
1970/71	4	F Griffin	2	V Ludwig		
1971/72	4	F Griffin	1	V Ludwig	Club formed 1972/73	
1972/73	4	F Griffin	2	V Ludwig	6	J O'Donoghue
1973/74	2	F Griffin	4	V Ludwig	6	J O'Donoghue
1974/75		- Competition suspended - Cyclone Tracy				
1975/76	4	R Bonson	3	V Ludwig	2	D Booth/D Hurrell
1976/77	5	F Griffin	2	V Ludwig	3	D Johnston
1977/78	3	A Hooper	1	V Ludwig	2	D Johnston
1978/79	2	A Hooper	1	V Ludwig	3	N Halfpenny
1979/80	3	P Morrissey	5	V Ludwig	2	N Halfpenny
1980/81	5	B Elix	3	V Ludwig	1	D Johnston
1981/82	3	T Nixon	2	V Ludwig	6	D Johnston
1982/83	5	J Hendry	2	V Ludwig	4	D Johnston
		T Nixon		R Bail		
1983/84		T Nixon	1	V Ludwig	4	B Johnstone
1984/85		M Crawshaw	1	V Ludwig	5	B Johnstone
1985/86		M Crawshaw	1	V Ludwig	6	D Johnston

History of the NTFL

NTFL Club Presidents - 1950/51 to 1994/95 (cont'd)

Season	Posn	Nightcliff President	Posn	St Marys President	Posn	North Darwin President	Posn	Sthn Districts President
1986/87	4	F Griffin	1	V Ludwig	6	J Stokes Club formed 1987/88		
1987/88	3	F Griffin	1	V Ludwig	4	K Manhire	7	D Beggs
1988/89	5	B Jauncey J Harlock	3	V Ludwig	4	J Mitchell	6	D Beggs
1989/90	5	G Benger	1	V Ludwig	6	J Mitchell	3	D Beggs
1990/91	3	G Benger	1	V Ludwig	6	P Stevens	5	D Beggs
1991/92	5	G Benger J Greenoff	1	V Ludwig	6	P Stevens	7	R Smith
1992/93	7	J Greenoff	2	V Ludwig	4	B Hansen	6	R Smith
1993/94	6	J Greenoff	1	V Ludwig	3	B Hansen	4	Mrs T Francis
1994/95	6	C Suradi	1	V Ludwig	7	M Malady	3	Mrs T Francis
1995/96	7	C Suradi C Kariolas	1	V Ludwig	6	M Malady	2	G Manouge
1996/97	6	C Suradi	2	V Ludwig	5	M Malady	3	G Manouge
1997/98	6	C Suradi	2	V Ludwig	5	M Malady	1	G Manouge
1998/99	6	B Hood	2	V Ludwig	4	J Marshall	3	A Hagan
1999/00	6	B Hood	3	V Ludwig	2	J Marshall	4	A Hagan
2000/01	4	B Hood	5	V Ludwig	1	P Thompson	3	A Hagan
2001/02	2	B Hood	4	V Ludwig	1	P Thompson	6	G Manouge

Luke's leap

St Marys' Luke Apuatimi displays his spectacular marking skills during a match against Darwin Buffaloes at Gardens Oval in the early 1960's.

History of the NTFL

3. CLUBS/TEAMS/GROUNDS

The seven clubs of the Northern Territory Football League are Darwin, North Darwin, Nightcliff, St Marys, Southern Districts, Wanderers and Waratahs. As mentioned earlier, Darwin, Wanderers and Waratahs are the foundation clubs of the NTFL, having joined the League in the 1917 season. Nightcliff and St Marys were established in the early 1950's, North Darwin early 1970 and Southern Districts in 1987.

Brief resumes of each club are as follows:

DARWIN

The club was formed in 1917 when it was first named Warriors. After an unsuccessful first season, the club changed it's name to Vesteys mainly because most of the players were employed by the Vesteys Meatworks. The club had another name change in the 1926/27 season, when it was known as the Buffaloes which remained until the 1962/63 season when it was renamed the Darwin Football club.

A true 'local family' team with proud traditions with a number of present day players whose grandfathers played for the club in the 1920's and 1930's. The club still cherishes the old Buffalo nametag, and has retained the club song 'Old Buffaloes Never Die', which is sung at anniversaries and after special wins.

The official guernsey colours are dark blue with light blue yoke. The club does not presently have it's own facilities and has been training at various Council grounds, the latest being Tiwi Oval. Meetings are held at NTFL Headquarters at Marrara. Land next to the Gun Club at the Marrara sports complex has been allocated for the Club to build it's own facilities.

The first 'local' to play in the 1920's was Rueben Cooper. Rueben's son Ron was a top wingman with Buffaloes in the 1940's and 1950's, and his sons Rueben, Ron Jr and Robbie were Buffaloe champions in the 1970's and 1980's. Other Buffalo champions from the 1930's whose sons and grandsons have kept up the family tradition are Don Bonson Sr, John and William 'Put' Ah Mat, Walter Lew Fatt, Tim Angeles, Dick Butler and Babe Damaso.

Since it's formation in 1917, the Club has won 22 League Premierships including four consecutive Premierships on two occasions from 1948/49 to 1951/52, and from 1967/68 to 1970/71. It has also won eight Reserves and 15 Under 18 Premierships since the competitions started in 1953/54 and 1956/57 respectively.

Darwin Football club has produced 11 Nichols Medallists in Leo Pon 1946/47, Joe Sarib 1949/50, Steve Abala Sr 1950/51, Don Stokes 1967/68, Ali Muir 1968/69 (tie), Ron Quail 1975/76, Basil Damaso 1976/77, William Briston 1983/84, Steven Stokes 1987/88 and Jason Jones 1991/92 and 1993/94. Jason Jones became the sixth NTFL player to win the medal twice. League Best & Fairest winners before the Nichols Medal was introduced were Rueben Cooper 1921/22, Don Bonson Sr 1931/32 and 1935/36, Walter Lew Fatt 1932/33 and 1933/34, and Leo Pon 1937/38.

History of the NTFL

The most celebrated footballer to come from the Darwin Football Club was Bill Dempsey, who received an MBE for his services to football in Western Australia. In 15 years with West Perth, Bill Dempsey played 371 League games and represented Western Australia in 14 interstate matches. Bill was a ruckman with 'Buffs' who left Darwin after the 1959/60 season as an 18 year old with another promising footballer in teammate Jimmy Anderson. Word has it that had Jimmy got used to the cold weather and did not suffer from homesickness, he would have well and truly made the big time.

Darwin Football club have had some magnificent teams, but one of the best would have to be the 1967/68 team that went through the season undefeated and started the Club's run of four consecutive Premierships. The team lineup was:

B	Bill McLean	Ron Woodruffe	Nunga Ah Mat
H-B	Frank Ah Mat	Jim Anderson	Jock McLeod
C	Lionel Butler	Rueben Cooper	Jo G Tutton
H-F	Don Stokes (c)	Aldo Rossetto	Pat Poelingoer
F	George Butler	Tom Muir	David Ross
R&R	Bill Dempsey	Bob Garner	Steve Abala
19th	Herman Rooding		
20th	Jamsie Muir		
Coach	Aldo Rossetto		

Tim Angeles, Herb Collins, John Dela Cruz, Jack Ah Kit, Ron Biddell, Riley Wing, Bill McLean, Vicki and Don Bonson and 'Doodles' Ah Mat are amongst a long list of Darwin stalwarts who have over the years given dedicated and tireless service to the Club.

Darwin Football Club - Premiers 1988/89

Back - G Hampton, J Sing, G Bruce, G Adams, D Atkinson, J Paterson, K Quall, S Hedge

Middle - J Mayo (Team Manager), R Wright, D Ross, B Carsswell, T Lawler, A Grills, F Maguire, C Ford, 1 Smith (Coach), B McLean (Pres)

Front - K Bonson (Strategist), A Brown, P May, S Briston, K Reid, W Briston (c), S Stokes, R Anderson Absent - M Williams

History of the NTFL

Darwin Honour Board 1946/47 to 1994/95

Season	Pos	Coach	Captain	Best & Fairest	Leading Goalkicker	No Goals
1946/47	2	L Pon	L Pon	L Pon		
1947/48	2	G Liveris	L Milroy	L Pon		
1948/49	1	G Liveris	B Baban	J Sarib		
1949/50	1	G Liveris	Bbaban	C Murphy		
1950/51	1	G Liveris	S Abala	S Abala		
1951/52	1	G Liveris	S Abala	S Abala/A Ah Mat		
1952/53	2	G Liveris	S Abala	J Sarib	C Ah Mat	48
1953/54	2	G Liveris		J Sarib	J Mayo	36
1954/55	2	G Livens	J Sarib	J Sarib	J Mayo	48
				L Butler		
1955/56	3	G Liveris	R Cooper	L Butler	C Ah Mat	24
1956/57	2	B Baban	J Mayo	L Butler/J Angeles	C Ah Mat	30
1957/58	4	H Collins	J Anderson	J Anderson	A Ah Mat	25
1958/59	2	J Mitchell	J Anderson	J Mayo		
1959/60	2	R Cooper	J Anderson	L Butler	M Ah Mat	32
1960/61	5	J Anderson	J Anderson	F Perez	J Baird/G Brendish	20
1961/62	2	G Brendish	G Brendish	J Anderson	R Woodroffe	16
1962/63	1	G Brendish	G Brendish	R Woodroffe	A Tye	44
1963/64	1	V Birch	V Hill	J Anderson	R Garner	41
1964/65	2	V Birch	J Anderson	D Stokes	J Angeles	23
1965/66	3	P Patten	P Patten	W Ah Mat	V Austral	20
1966/67	2	R Duncan	J Anderson	W Ah Mat	R Woodroffe	26
1967/68	1	A Rossetto	A Rossetto	D Stokes	T Muir	55
1968/69	1	A Rossetto	B Garner	All Muir	A Muir	44
1969/70	1	A Rossetto	B Garner	W Ahmat	R Roe	49
1970/71	1	R Elix	R Elix	C Moyle	R Cooper	46
1971/72	2	W Ah Mat	W Ah Mat	R Quail	E Clarke	42
1972/73	1	W Ah Mat	W Ah Mat	R Cooper	N Hagen	54
1973/74	3	A Rossetto	A Muir	R Quail	E Clarke	41
1974/75	Competition suspended - Cyclone Tracy					
1975/76	1	W Ah Mat	W Ah Mat	R Quail	R Cooper	35
1976/77	4	W Ah Mat	W Ah Mat	B Damaso	R Cooper	48
1977/78	5	R Bonson	B Damaso	N Hagen	N Hagen	37
1978/79	4	W Ah Mat	D Bonson	R Cooper	R Cooper	39
1979/80	1	J Bates	J Paterson	J Paterson	T Thorne	66
1980/81	4	M Poulter	J Paterson	D Bonson	T Thorne	32
1981/82	4	M Leeder	J Paterson	D Bonson	R Cooper	52
1982/83	3	R Cooper	D Bonson	D Bonson	R Cooper	27
1983/84	2	I Smith	N Hagen	W Briston	J Bedford	40
1984/85	3	M Kenneally	J Paterson	D Atkinson	J Lak Lak	56
1985/86	5	D Raymond	T Lawler	S Liddell	R Anderson	23
1986/87	2	M Graham	J Paterson	W Briston	R Mills	52
1987/88	2	K Bonson	W Briston	G Brace	T Lawler	39
1988/89	1	I Smith	W Briston	K Quail	K Quail	53
1989/90	2	I Smith	W Briston	S Stokes	S Hayes	47
1990/91	2	I Smith	D Atkinson	S Hayes	S Hayes	66
1991/92	2	D Bonson	D Atkinson	J Jones	S Hayes	43
1992/93	5	I Smith	S Stokes	J Macri	S Hayes	25
1993/94	2	W Martin	S Stokes	J Jones	S Hayes	44
1994/95	2	W Martin	S Stokes	M West	S Hayes	56
1995/96	3	J Clarke	S Stokes	G Frank	S Hayes	46
			P May			
1996/97	7	G Angeles S Stokes	S Stokes	W Warden	S Hayes	25
1997/98	4	W Ahmat	W Williams S Hayes	M Ahmat	C Ahchee	49
1998/99	5	W Ahmat	M Williams S Hayes	R Swift	M Dhurrkay	44
1999/00	5	M Athanasiou	M Ahmat	M Athanasiou	R Russell	29
2000/01	2	M Athanasiou	M Ahmat		E Tipungwuti	40
2001/02	5	M Athanasiou	M Williams M Ahmat	E Tipungwuti	S Munkara	

History of the NTFL

Darwin Football Club - Runners.up 1964/65

Back. V Birch (Coach), J Muir, J Kelly, G Tilmouth, N McKerlie, W Birch, K Goldie (Trainer), J De La Cruz (Pres) Middle. F Perez, J Tutton, D Stokes, R Garner, P Patten, R Cummings, G Brown, I McLeod

Bottom - J Angeles, J McLeod, J Anderson (c), H Brown, B Dempsey, R Woodroffe, T Allen (Mascots. J Cardona, T Nickels)

Darwin Football Club- Premiers 1970/71

Back - P Platt (Official), J Hobbs, S Abala, S Rossetto, T Muir, A Rasmussen, G Butler, J Tye, H Rooding Middle - R Quail, F Ah Mat, L Coles, M Rabbitt, B McLean, B Shields, L Butler

Front - C Moyle, D Stokes, W Ah Mat, B Elix (c/coach), A Rossetto, Reubin Cooper, B Garner

Absent - R Baxter

History of the NTFL

WARATAHS

One of the three original clubs of the League, Waratahs were the 'Power-brokers' in the early years of the competition. The early players came mainly from the Government Departments and business houses. The club was the main participant in the colour-bar incident in the 1926/27 season and the dispute over umpires in the 1934/35 season.

The official guernsey colours are white with red vee, red collar, red numbers, red logo shorts and red socks. The club was responsible for the formation of the Waratahs Sports Club, and has it's own home ground at Waratah Oval, Fannie Bay, which is shared by a variety of Waratah Sporting Clubs, e.g. cricket, baseball, etc.

The tradition of Waratahs being an innovative and forward thinking club has continued with time. Waratahs was the first club to establish it's own ground and the first NTFL 'home' games were played at the Waratah Oval, Fannie Bay in the 1960/61 season. With it's background steeped in tradition, the club continues to plan for a progressive future. Discussions are currently taking place with the Northern Territory Government and the Darwin City Council for the Club and another famous Darwin landmark, the picturesque Gardens Oval, to become one.

Waratahs have won 14 League Premierships including three consecutive Premierships from 1928/29 to 1930/31. It has also won eight Reserves and two U-18 Premierships since the competitions started in 1953/54 and 1956/57.

Nine Nichols Medals were won by eight Waratahs players, namely Dennis Ganley 1951/52, Bluey McKee 1952/53, Bill James 1953/54, Jim Wilson 1960/61, Bertram 1962/63, Keith Nickels 1971/ 72 (tie), Hank McPhee 1979/80 and Peter Ivanoff 1981/82 and 1986/87. Peter Ivanoff became one of six players to win the Medal twice.

The most highly rated local player to come from the Waratah club was Michael Poulter. Mike's football career with Waratahs commenced in the early 1960's, and he won the U-19 Best & Fairest Abala Medal in the 1963/64 season. He was a strong, reasonably tall player who could hold down any key position as well as ruck-rove. Mike Poulter first played League football in 1965/66 and he represented the NTFL against the VFL All Stars in 1967 and against Queensland in 1974. Mike moved to Norwood (SANFL) in 1968, played 10 years (175 League games) and was a member of the South Australian State squad in the same year. Mike was awarded Life Membership of Waratahs in 1973/74 and Life Member of Norwood and SANFL in 1978. After a short stint with the Darwin club, which he coached in 1980/81, he returned as Waratahs club captain in 1981/82 before injury forced him to retire as a player.

The team had everything required for a 'top' team in height, strength, speed and skills plus a very astute coach in Peter Haysman. The lineup was:

History of the NTFL

B	Vin Budd	Roger Zerna	Hank McPhee
HB	Lloyd Norrish	Bob Haines	Peter Goodrem
C	Brace Tilbrook	Keith Nickels	Mike Wall
HF	Bob McKenzie (c)	Arch Wilkey	Sam Norman
F	Trevor Miller	Wilson Lee	Mitch Lee
R&R	Colin McVicar	Mike Pourer	Selwyn Short
19th	Bob Winter		
20th	Chris Collins		
Coach	Peter Haysman		

Keith Crooks, Pat Skelly, John O'Callaghan, Spike Jones, Noel Lynagh, Len Poulter, 'Snowy' Klose, Peter Keating, Syl Murphy, Phil Murphy, Ron Baker and Cathie Nickels are amongst a long list of Waratahs stalwarts who have over the years given dedicated and tireless service to the Club.

Waratah Football Club - Premiers 1952/53

Back - N Tibbett, B Behrndt, B Munro, R GaMey (c), M Hatch, C 'Bluey' McKee, P Scorer Middle - T Wohling, A Hodge, B James, C Stokes, R Hoy, J O'Callaghan, B Melling, K Mckee Front - Bill Jones, B Geary, Bob Jones, C Hill, R Graetz

History of the NTFL

Waratahs Honour Board 1946/47 to 1994/95

Season	Pos	Coach	Captain	Best & Fairest	Leading Goalkicker	No Goals
1946/47	1	P Skelly	P Skelly	L Hickey		
1947/48	1	P Skelly	R Graffin	I Fraser		
1948/49	3	P Skelly	R Peddar			
1949/50	4	P Skelly	W Knight			
1950/51	2	M James	D Ganley	D Ganley		
1951/52	4	R Graffin	D Ganley	D Ganley		
1952/53	1	R Graffin	D Ganley	C McKee	E Wohling	29
1953/54	1	B Daniel	P Scorer	W James	B Jones	26
1954/55	3	B Daniels	B Daniels		Richardson	4
1955/56	2	B Baccharia	V Rowan	K James	P Brown	23
1956/57	4	R Graffin	D Symons	D Wyld	B Sumner	33
1957/58	5	P Scorer	P Scorer	D Symonds	P Scorer	19
1958/59	5	P Scorer	P Scorer	P Scorer		
1959/60	5	G McMahon	G McMahon	S Klose	J Vierk	16
1960/61	4	L Atkins	L Atkins	J Wilson	L Atkins	20
1961/62	5	C Oates	C Oates		G Gregory	24
1962/63	5	S Klose	S Klose	S Klose	N Yeend	14
1963/64	4	J Leask	J Leask	J Leask	E DeCampo	16
1964/65	4	M Lee	M McGrade		D Ling	16
1965/66	4	M Lee	M McGrade	R Crosby	B Partidge	22
1966/67	4	M McGrade	M McGrade	P Davis	M Poulter	46
1967/68	4	J Neighbour	W Walmsley	W Walmsley	M Poulter	29
1968/69	4	T Willis	G Flyndell	G Hopkins	R Weise	16
1969/70	4	T Willis		G Hopkins	L O'Dwyer	30
					G Bandy	30
1970/71	3	M Daly	M Daly	G Ah Mat	M Daly	29
1971/72	3	R Elix	F Strazdins	K Nickels	W Lee	41
				P Murphy		
1972/73	3	R Elix	F Strazdins	R McKenzie	W Lee	46
1973/74	1	P Haysman	R McKenzie	R McKenzie	C Collins	44
1974/75	Competition suspended - Cyclone Tracy					
1975/76	6	A Wilkey	A Wilkey	T Sandery	A Clarke	27
1976/77	1	R Elix	K Nickels	T Sandery	A Clarke	44
1977/78	6	R Haines	K Nickels	C Spry	W Lee	42
1978/79	6	R Haines	R Zerna	H McPhee	W Lee	21
1979/80	4	M Kenneally	H McPhee	D Roberts	P Holbrook	28
1980/81	6	M Kenneally	H McPhee	N Brand	W Lee	28
1981/82	5	A T Shaw	M Poulter	P Ivanoff	W Lee	23
1982/83	6	T Sandery	P Rush	A May	D Woodley	25
1983/84	6	L Roach	H McPhee	R McLean	J Wass	38
1984/85	6	L Roach	K Nickels	D Ross	K Trafford	39
1985/86	4	A Wilkey	I Flanagan	G McAdam	D Measures	33
1986/87	5	A Wilkey	P Dwyer	G McAdam	R Joseph	30
1987/88	6	P Ivanoff	P Dwyer	P Ivanoff	R Roe	24
1988/89	7	M Graham	M Graham	R May	R Earl	19
1989/90	4	M Rioli	M Rioli	G Argus	R Roe	32
1990/91	4	M Rioli	M Rioli	J Watson	D Slattery	26
1991/92	3	M Rioli	G Argus	W Rioli	W Rioli	32
1992/93	3	M Rioli	W Rioli	J Howes	R Roe	37
1993/94	7	S Rioli	W Rioli	J Watson	G Puruntatameuri	33
1994/95	5	A Wilkey	G Ross	B Oakley	S Kerinaiaua	36
1995/96	5	W Martin	A Hoban	C Williams	M Chilcott	104
1996/97	2	W Martin	A Hoban	W Rioli	G Puruntatameri	41
			W Rioli			
1997/98	3	G.M Adam	A Hoban	W Rioli	E Matthews	39
1998/99	1	W Martin	A Hoban	B Bush	D Johns	54
1999/00	1	R Phillipson*	A Hoban	G Griffiths	A Kerinaiaua	
		W Martin			G Atkins	47
		C Williams				
2000/01	6	C Williams	A Hoban	B Bush	G Atkins	
2001/02	3	C Williams	A Hoban		B Singh	51

History of the NTFL

*Only coached for period of umpires carnival.

Waratah Football Club - 1966/67

Back - F Taylor, L O'Bryan, M Poulter, D Boyanton, P Davis, P Murphy, G Arbon, G Loveday, L Poulter (Pres) Middle - R Wiese, R Crosby, L Valentine, J Sundbye, M McGrade, T Jones, R Cox, R Hooper

Front - J Slavin, W Walmsley, T Duke, L Lambert, W Radbone, unknown, D Fong

Waratah Football Club - Premiers 1973/74

Back - D Dawes (Team/Man), M Poulter, A Wilkey, C McVicar, T Miller, R Zerna, B Haines, H McPhee, M Lee **Middle** - M Wall, B Tilbrook, S Short, B McKenzie (c), P Haysman (coach), W Lee, B Winter, V Budd

Front - K Nickels, L Norrish

Absent - J Bennett (Pres), P Goodrem, C Collins, S Norman

History of the NTFL

WANDERERS

The third of the original NTFL clubs formed in 1917, Wanderers met with instant success in winning the first four Premierships from 1917 to 1919/20. The bulk of their players were post office employees and town people. However, the club had its share of upheavals in the mid 1920's and 1930's. Because of penalties imposed on a number of its players following striking incidents in the 1924/25 Preliminary Final which the club thought was unfair, it withdrew from the League at the end of the 1924/25 season. The penalties, which the club saw as too severe, were the suspension of Pat Callery (Captain) for the Grand Final and the whole of the 1925/26 season, and players Yeates (Vice Captain) and Gaffney for six matches including the Grand Final. Wanderers subsequently lost the Grand Final to Vestey's 5.10 to 2.10.

The club was renamed Rovers in 1925/26 and Magpies from 1926/27 to 1928/29. The reason for the name change is unknown. Wanderers re-entered the competition in 1929/30 under its original name. At its Annual General Meeting, the NTFL loaned Wanderers £16 to assist the club's financial problems.

The club was forced to disband in 1936/37 because of lack of finance and shortage of players and was not reformed until after World War II. The reason for the club's financial shortfall was due to the high proportion of Aborigines in the team who were unable to pay the club membership fee. This problem led to the players leaving the club and resulting in the club's shortage of players.

In the early post-war years, Wanderers' best efforts were as runners-up to Buffaloes on three occasions between 1949 and 1952. Eventually they climbed to the top of the ladder under the inspired coaching of former Western Australian star Jack Larcombe to win their first post-war Premiership in 1957/58.

During the 1960's and 1970's, Wanderers fell on lean times and on occasions they were again on the verge of collapse. Despite achieving the doubtful distinction of being handed the wooden spoon on 13 occasions in those years, the indomitable spirit of a hard core of players and supporters began to be rewarded in the early 1980's, when the new look hard-working administration under the leadership of former player Alan McMaster and newly appointed coach in former Darwin player Steve Abala began to turn the club's fortunes around.

The 1980/81 season saw the Eagles rise almost miraculously from obscurity to just fail in the dying minutes of the Grand Final to snatch victory from North Darwin. The revitalized Wanderers continued their progress, winning back-to-back Premierships in 1981/82 and 1982/83. They finished third in 1983/84 and were runners-up in 1984/85. The extraordinary success of the Eagles in the 1980's has included three wins in the NTFL Umpires Carnival in 1980/81, 1981/82, 1984/85 and runners-up in 1982/83.

Wanderers had to wait another 10 seasons before winning its 10th League Premiership. After a long break from the position of Club President, Alan McMaster took the job on again and with another hard working committee, and new coach Brian Hood steered the Eagles to a surprise win over the favoured St Marys team in the 1992/93 Grand Final. The club has won two Reserves and three U/18 Premierships.

Six Nichols Medals were won by five Wanderers players in Ted Cooper 1957/58 and 1961/62, Peter Marrego 1959/60 (tie), Rusty Moreen 1965/66, Mantle Ryan 1968/69 (Tie) and Joel Howes 1994/95. Ted Cooper became the second of six NTFL players to win the medal twice and was the first full blood Aboriginal to win the medal.

The official colours of the Club are blue guernsey with two yellow stripes on one side of front and small eagle emblem on opposite side. Blue logo shorts and blue socks. Wanderers have built their own clubhouse at Football Park Marrara, and share the two ovals for training with St Marys who also have their own clubhouse at Football Park Marrara.

One of Wanderers local 'Greats' is present coach Russell Jeffrey. Russell is an ex St Marys colt who transferred to Wanderers in 1984. He has represented the NT at Secondary Schoolboys in 1982 and TEAL Cup in 1982 and 1983. A rugged, tough courageous player who leads by example, Russell also represented the NT at senior level 17 times against Sydney Swans '87, Tasmania, Aust Amateurs and VFA in '88 Bicentennial Carnival, Essendon '89, '90 and '94, Port Adelaide '89, St Kilda '90, Hawthorn '91, Geelong '92, Melbourne '93, VFA in '94, Fremantle Dockers '95, Arafura Games '95 and ACT '95. Russell's AFL career was unfortunately interrupted by injuries and he played 42 games with St Kilda and eight games with Brisbane Bears. He is the first NT player to represent Victoria in a State of Origin match. Russell won the Chancy Medal for Best on Ground in the 1992/93 Grand Final.

Although Premierships have been few and far between the club fielded one of it's best teams in winning the 1982/83 Premiership. The line-up was:

B	Joe Jeffrey	Jeff Harrop	Jamie Kelly
HB	Terry Neville	David Muller	Billy Ellis
C	Eddie Cubillo	Gus Wanganeen (c)	David Russell
HF	Ken McKeown	John Rafferty	Paul Nikoletos
F	Kevin Wanganeen	Peter Filler	Peter Stennett
R&R	Doug Kelly	Graham Russell	Poncie Cubillo
Interchange	Eddie McKenzie	Rick Stansborough	
Coach	Steve Abala		

Jack Larcombe, Jimmy Markos, Paddy Leverence, Ray Norman, Gail Glover (Window), Alan McMaster, Peter Baran, Mick Pollock and Gary and Joan Mettam are amongst a long list of Wanderers stalwarts who have over the years given dedicated and tireless service to the Club.

History of the NTFL

Wanderers Honour Board 1946/47 to 1994/95

Season	Pos	Coach	Captain	Best & Fairest	Leading Goalkicker	No Goals
1946/47	5	C Chambers	C Chambers			
1947/48	3	C Chambers	C Chambers			
1948/49	2	C Chambers	J Cart			
1949/50	2	C Chambers	C Chambers			
1950/51	3	R Graetz	R Graetz			
1951/52	2	R Graetz	R Graetz	R Graetz		
1952/53	3	C Chambers	G Clarke	A McKinnon	G Clarke	53
		R Graetz				
1953/54	5	C Chambers	S Clarke		G Hazelbane	20
1954/55	5	S Clarke	S Clarke		G Clarke	16
		J Fitzgerald			B Potts	16
1955/56	5	E Latham	E Latham		E Cooper	28
1956/57	5	J Markos	J Markos	E Cooper	E Cooper	23
1957/58	1	J Larcombe	J White	E Cooper	B Potts	32
1958/59	4	J Larcombe	J Markos	A Marrego		
1959/60	3	J Larcombe	A Marrego		E Cooper	29
1960/61	3	J Markos	E Cooper		D White	41
		K Templeton				
1961/62	4	S Gray	E Cooper	E Cooper	E Cooper	17
1962/63	4	D Duncan	D Duncan		D White	36
1963/64	5	J Markos			P Marrego	13
1964/65	5	L Briggs	R Miller		E Cooper	22
1965/66	5	D Duncan	D Duncan	R Moreen	F Nieyac	17
1966/67	5	B Partridge	B Partridge	M Ryan	F Nieyac	19
1967/68	5	P Leverence	P Leverence	P Leverence	M Ryan	5
					D Kelly	5
1968/69	5	J Anderson	P Leverence	M Ryan	D Kelly	14
1969/70	5	J Anderson	P Leverence	R Morphett	V Austral	24
1970/71	5	J Lawson			P Barton	11
1971/72	5	A Smith	A Smith	R Shields	P Lukeman	33
1972/73	5	R Norman	A Smith	J Yalandhu	G Smith	21
1973/74	5	L O'Leary	A Smith	R Shields	A Djuhuno	36
				A Rossetto	D Window	
1974/75	Competition suspended - Cyclone Tracy					
1975/76	5	A Rossetto	R Shields	G Wanganeen	P Blake	26
1976/77	6	R Norman	W Ellis	W Curren	W Ellis	21
1977/78	4	B Smart	R McGorman	P Stennett	P Stennett	37
1978/79	5	B Smart	R McGorman	W Ellis	W Ellis	26
					J Yalandhu	26
1979/80	6	S Abala	G Wanganeen	R McGorman	J Goninon	34
1980/81	2	S Abala	G Wanganeen	D Russell	P Stennett	49
1981/82	1	S Abala	G Wanganeen	P Nikoletos	D Kelly	86
1982/83	1	S Abala	G Wanganeen	P Cubillo	P Filler	49
1983/84	3	D Russell	K Wanganeen	P Filler	P Filler	27
1984/85	2	S Abala	K Wanganeen	R Leskovec	R Stansborough	40
1985/86	3	D Hindson	K Wanganeen	P Filler	T Thorne	47
1986/87	3	D Hindson	P Cubillo	M Millar	K Thorne	27
1987/88	5	P Stennett	M Millar	K Wanganeen	M Pollock	35

History of the NTFL

1988/89	2	P Stennett	M Millar D Totham	R Chapman	M Pettit	63
1989/90	7	P Stennett	D Totham	S Grimmer	M Pettit	63
1990/91	5	P Stennett	D Totham	P Rout	G Dhurrkay	30
1991/92	4	B Hood	D Totham	M Millar	D Taylor	49
1992/93	1	B Hood	D Totham	A Cooper	D Taylor	49
1993/94	5	R Jeffrey	R Jeffrey	T Angel	D Taylor	47
1994/95	4	R Jeffrey	R Jeffrey	D Taylor	R Owen	39
1995/96	4	R Jeffrey	E Cubillo	B Mawson	B Jukawics	27
1996/97	4	R Jeffrey	B Mawson	D George	C Wilson	30
1997/98	7	D Lewfatt	B Mawson	T Angel	A Cooper	17
1998/99	7	M Millar	T Angel	T Angel	S Thompson	15
1999/00	7	M Millar	T Angel	T Angel	D Cooper	12
2000/01	7	M Millar	T Angel	G Horne	D Cooper	32
2001/02	7	M Motlop	J Jeffrey Jnr		D Crane	



Wanderers Football Club -

Preliminary Finalist 1959/60

*Back - C Holtze, B Pott, R Roman,
D McDowell, H Phillips, J Fry, A
Marrego (c), J Larcombe (coach),
D Woodie, J White, D Guy, B
Hobson, W Scholze
Front - Wilfred, P Marrego,
Shorty Stephen, R Adams, B
Wilson (seated), R Miller, J
Markos, T Cooper, R Murphy
(official)*

History of the NTFL

Wanderers Football Club - Premiers 1982/83

Back - M Kennealy (Asst Coach), P Stennett, J Harrop, D Kelly, D Muller, P Filler, R McGorman, J Kelly, S Abala

Middle - P Mahaffey, J Jeffrey, D White, P Nikoletos, T Neville, R Stansborough, G Russell, D Russell, J Rafferty, K

Front - D Howie (Trainer), P Cubillo, B Ellis, E Cubillo, G Wanganeen (c), D Weetra, K Wanganeen, D McLean, V

(Coach)

McKeown.

Ciccozzi (Runner)

*Wanderers Football Club - **Premiers 1992/93***

Back - R Jeffrey, B Hood (Coach), A Viola, M Gibson, D Millar, G Dhurrkay, S Cusack, D Taylor, M Totham, D Totham

Middle - A Tait, T Wynd, S Sharkey, G Davidson, P Cubillo, L Painter, R Lewis, R Guit, M West

Front - B Mawson, A McDonald, T Angel, P Dhurrkay, A Cooper, C Huxtable, K Wanganeen

(c), R Smith, B Jukawics

History of the NTFL

NIGHTCLIFF

The Nightcliff Football Club was originally formed as Works and Housing Football Club in 1950 and competed in the 1950/51 season. As the NTFL consisted of only the League competition until the Reserves Grade was started in 1953/54, and the Senior Colts competition established in 1956/57, the Works and Housing Club was established to give fringe players and a number of younger players who could not get a game with Buffaloes the opportunity to play in the NTFL competition. The club was renamed Nightcliff Football Club in 1963/64.

The foundation members of the Club were Bert Garrett, Secretary, Ron Bridget and Roly Dunn. Most were employed by the Commonwealth Department of Works and Housing. They were supported by former Buffaloe players Leo Port and Ron Chin.

Since its inception the club has only won three Premierships in 1956/57, 1960/61 and 1964/65. The Tigers' League teams must have been reasonably strong as they were runners-up five times, Third 13 times and Fourth 10 times. The Club has won seven Reserve Grade and six Under-18 Premierships.

The Football Club is part of the Nightcliff Sports Club and has its own homeground with change rooms at Nightcliff Oval which was first used for NTFL fixtures in 1972. Within the grounds is a licensed Club House, which is shared by all members of the Sports Club.

The official guernsey colours are black with yellow sash, yellow numbers, black logo shorts and black and yellow hooped socks. The club teams are more commonly known as the 'Tigers'.

Seven Nightcliff players have won nine Nichols Medals. They are Harold Muir 1956/57, Joe Bonson 1958/59 and 1959/60, Benny Lew Fatt 1963/64, Ken Bonson 1970/71, Mark Motlop 1977/78 (tie), John Tye 1978/79 and Joe Daby 1972/73 (tie), 1980/81. Joe Bonson was the first of six NTFL players to win the Medal twice. He was also Runner-up to Ted Cooper 1957/58 and Bertram 1962/63. Joe Daby was also a dual Nichols Medallist.

Because of his VFL/AFL reputation, Michael McLean stands out as the most celebrated local player to come from the Nightcliff club. He played all his junior football with Nightcliff before being discovered by VFL/AFL club Footscray. Michael won the U/15 Best & Fairest Gunderson Medal in 1978/79, the U-17 Best & Fairest Hickman Medal in 1979/80, was a member of the 1980 and 1981 NT Schoolboys team, the 1981 All Australian Schoolboys, NT TEAL Cup member in 1980 and 1981 winning the Best and Fairest award in 1981. In senior football, Michael played 35 NTFL games and represented the NT against North Melbourne in 1988, Tasmania, Australian Amateurs and VFA in the 1988 Bicentennial 2nd Division National Championships, and was one of three NT players named in the All Australian Team at the Bicentennial Championships. He was Vice Captain of the NT team against Hawthorn in 1991 winning the Australia Day Medal for Best on Ground. He also represented the NTFL against Geelong in 1992 and Melbourne in 1993. Michael has played over 120 VFL/AFL games with Footscray and Brisbane Bears, winning Club Best & Fairest 1991 and 1993.

One of the best Tigers team from the eight which made the Grand Final would have to be the 1973/74 team which lost one of the most exciting and close games (by three points) to the best ever Waratahs team. The line-up was:

History of the NTFL

B	Barry Ash	Alan McNamara	Tony Dracun
HB	Eddie Hayes	Alphonse Shields	Greg Peris
C	Darryl Kicker	Paul Roach	Cedric Suradi
HF	Chris Roberts	Norm Watson	John Tye
F	Keith Pattinson	Mike Crawshaw (C)	Alan Oates
R&R	Claude Ciatkowski	Leo Roach	Joe Daby
19th	Don Witham		
20th	Mal Groves		
Coach	Tony Shaw		

Stewie Clark, Keith Smart, Frank Griffin, Ken Utting, Ian White, Tom Blackley, Mike Crawshaw, John Greenoff, Costa Karolias, Eddie Motlop, Paul Bleile and Cedric Suradi are amongst a long list of Nightcliff stalwarts who have over the years given dedicated and tireless service to the Club.

Works and Housing (Nightcliff) Football Club. Premiers 1956/57

Back - G McMahon, J Bonson. O Porter, M Little, J Beresford, 'Fingers' Brown, S Cubillo, B Muir, H Muir, F Chambers

Front – K Tilmouth, B Lew Fatt, D Bonson, D Lee, G Hazelbane, B Lunney (c/coach), D Baker, M Cardona Absent - L Pon, P Scorer, B Vincent

History of the NTFL

Nightcliff Honour Board 1950/51 to 1994/95

Season	Pos	Coach	Captain	Best & Fairest	Leading Goalkicker	No Goals
1950/51	5	B Garrett	N Yeend			
1951/52	3		L Pon	L Myles/ R Dalrymple		
1952/53	5	L Port	L Pon	M Hunt	Larsen	32
1953/54	4	B Garrett	L Pon		K Rodda	31
1954/55	4	P Scorer	G McLeod	G McLeod	D Walsh	23
1955/56	4	P Scorer	P Scorer		P Scorer	24
1956/57	1	B Lunney	B Lunney	H Muir	G Hazelbane	25
1957/58	2	B Lunney	B Lunney	Joe Bonson	J Bonson	28
1958/59	3	E Latham	D Bonson		N Cummings	45
1959/60	4	D Bonson	D Bonson	J Bonson	N Cummings	31
1960/61	1	D Bonson	D Bonson		B Lew Fatt	16
1961/62	3	D Bonson	D Bonson		J Bonson	25
1962/63	3	J Condous	D Bonson		J Bonson	24
1963/64	3	D Bonson	D Bonson	B Lew Fatt	D Bonson	20
1964/65	1	T Elliott	R Middleton	R Middleton	J Bonson	19
1965/66	2	D Bonson	D Bonson	W Muir	B Lew Fatt	18
1966/67	3	D Clark	D Clark	A Smith	D Clark	23
1967/68	3	D Clark	W Muir	R Byrne	R Byrne	26
		D Bonson				
1968/69	3	D Bonson	W Muir	W Muir	R Taylor	28
1969/70	3	K Bonson	W Muir	K Bonson	J Conway	30
1970/71	4	K Bonson	K Bonson	R Brown	R Staines	40
1971/72	4	W Radbone	W Radbone	J Daby	R Staines	42
1972/73	4	A T Shaw	K Pattinson	J Daby	A Oates	40
1973/74	2	A T Shaw	M Crawshaw	J Daby	J Daby	64
1974/75	Competition suspended - Cyclone Tracy					
1975/76	4	T Dragun	T Dragun	J Daby	R Staines	37
		M Leeder				
1976/77	5	B Thompson	R Staines	J Daby	M White	26
		A T Shaw				
1977/78	3	R Elix	A Oates	G Peris	R Staines	37
1978/79	2	R Elix	A Oates	J Tye	M White	79
1979/80	3	R Boyanich	R Boyanich	M Motlop	T Sutton	103
1980/81	5	R Elix	D Gibson	J Daby	C Porter	36
1981/82	3	W Bennett	W Bennett	M Motlop	M Soulsby	39
1982/83	5	W Bennett	M Motlop	R Helyar	T Sutton	99
		D Gibson				
1983/84	5	D Gibson	E Motlop	D Peris	D Walsh	23
1984/85	4	J Tye	E Motlop	M Motlop	R Cooper	58
1985/86	2	C Suradi	D Croker	M Motlop	R Cooper	37
1986/87	4	C Suradi	M Motlop	P McGann	P Motlop	29
1987/88	3	G Turbill	G Turbill	G Brain	P Motlop	47
1988/89	5	S Abala	I Dyrting	I Dyrting	P Motlop	36
1989/90	5	G Allard	I Dyrting	M Motlop	P McGann	41
1990/91	3	M Motlop	I Dyrting	T Hartley	M Spence	67
1991/92	5	M Motlop	I Dyrting	E Cubillo	P McGann	27
1992/93	7	M Motlop	I Dyrting	A Kidney	T Hayden	16
1993/94	6	R Buckley	A Kidney	P Halvorson	P McGann	28
1994/95	6	B Hood	I Dyrting	P McGann	R Roe	19
1995/96	7	B Hood	M Motlop	N Murphy	N Quick	27
		P McGann				
1996/97	6	B Feeney	J Bonson	C Hughes	J Bonson	21
1997/98	6	B Feeney	J Bonson	B Ryan	N Grant	
			A Kidney		M Derksen	16
1998/00	6	J Clarke	N Murphy	N Murphy	M Carter	20
1999/00	6	B Hughes	J Bonson	R Campbell	G Miller	18
2000/01	4	C Williams	D Campbell	P Molloy	B Chambers	41
2001/02	2	M McLean	R Campbell	B Feeney		

History of the NTL

'Mr Magic' Michael MacLean introducing Prime Minister Paul Keating to Aboriginal All Stars players Matthew Ah Troy Ugle.

Mat, Daryl White, Dale Kickett and

Nightcliff Football Club - Runners.up 1973/74

Back - T Blackley (C'tee), R Bonson (Chmn Selectors), T Shaw (Coach), D Witham, L Roach, A Shields, M Crawshaw, C Peris, M Groves, C Disney (Trainer), F Griffin (Pres) Middle - Uncle Amos (Team Manager), G Guilfe, A McNamara, Tye Front - G Castillon, C Suradi, C Roberts, K Pattinson (c), J Daby, D Kickett

Ciatkowski, N Watson, A Oates, G E Hayes, P Roach, T Dragun, B Ash, J

History of the NTFL

ST MARYS

St Marys Football Club was formed in 1952 to provide opportunity for Tiwi Islanders employed by the Armed Services in Darwin to play football. With the exception of Wanderers, no other NTFL club in the early 1950's, i.e. Waratahs, Buffaloes and Works and Housing would allow full-blood Aboriginals to play in their teams.

Saints first President was the late Wag Graham, coach Jack Sweeney and Captain Ted Egan. This first St Marys team finished in fourth position and the club has missed the finals in the League grade only once in it's history that was in the 1979/80 season.

The Club has created or broken a number of records since joining the NTFL in 1952/53. They have won the most League Premierships (20) since 1952/53, won the most number of consecutive Premierships (five) from 1983/84 to 1987/88, won Premierships in all Grades League, Reserves, U-19, U-17 and U-15 in 1978/79, and played seven brothers from the Long family in the 1988/ 89 Preliminary Final. The club has also won 12 Reserves and 11 U-18 Premierships.

Seventeen St Marys players have won 18 Nichols Medals. Bill Roe won the first in 1954/55, Neil Davies 1955/56, Terry Lew Fatt 1958/59 (Tie), Gympy Lew Fatt 1964/65, Leon Gregory 1966/67, John Pepperill 1969/70, Pat Murphy 1971/72 and 1972/73, Michael Graham 1973/74, Bill Bennett 1977/78, Steve Thomson 1984/85, Damien Christensen 1985/86, Willy Rioli 1988/89, Michael Athanasiou 1990/91, and Noel Long 1992/93. Pat Murphy was the third of six NTFL players to win the Medal twice.

The official club colours are bottle green guernsey with gold 'S' over 'M' monogram, gold numbers, gold logo shorts and bottle green socks. The club has it's own impressive club house at Football Park Marrara, and share the two ovals for training with Wanderers who also have their own club house at Football Park Marrara. The clubhouse is the result of years of hard work put in by long serving President Vic Ludwig and his committees.

There have been many great players emanating from the St Marys club since 1952/53: Bill Roe, David Kantilla, Willie Roe and Michael Long to name a few, but one player who would have to stand out because of his WAFL and VFL reputation is Maurice Rioli. Originally from Melville Island, Maurice had a very short stint with St Marys before being snapped up by South Fremantle in the Western Australian Football League. After five seasons in Western Australia, Maurice was recruited by Richmond in the then Victorian Football League where he played six seasons. Whilst with Richmond, Maurice won the Club's Best and Fairest in 1982 and 1983, as well as the Norm Smith Medal for Best on Ground in the 1982 Grand Final. He was also runner-up in the 1983 Brownlow Medal, and was a member of the 1985 Australian team, which toured Ireland. In a long distinguished career, Maurice Rioli played 16 senior games with St Marys, 168 games with South Freemantle and 118 games with Richmond.

Of the 22 Premiership teams, the 1984/85 team is regarded as one of the best to represent the club. The line-up was:

History of the NTFL

B	Brendan Christensen	Damien Berto	Wayne Smith
lib	Brian Long	Michael Athanasiou	Ted Liddy (e)
C	Alberto Cubillo	Damien Christensen	Noel Long
HF	Darin Weetra	Cadji Dunn	Steven Long
F	John Long	Dennis Dunn	Hank McPhee
R&R	Steve Thomson	Rod McPhee	Mark Housley
Interchange	Kim Hill	Tony Vigona	
Coach	John Taylor		

Steve Thomson completed the double for St Marys by winning the 1984/85 Nichols Medal.

Ted Egan, Bill Ivanson, Vic and Sadie Ludwig, Cyril McGorey, Graham Brown, Brother John Pye, Brother Andy Howley, Jeannie Lee (Cubillo), Sheila Clarke and Norm Allen are amongst a long list of St Marys stalwarts who have over the years given dedicated and tireless service to the Club.

St Marys Football Club - 1952/53 'Inaugural' Team

Standing - W Graham (Pres), Dermot, W Roe, Felix, Pancreas, Jacob, Gilbert, Saturninus, Raphael, Father Collins

Middle - Benedict, K Duigan, E Egan (c), J Sweeney (coach), J Vaughan, Philip, Damien

Front. Stephen, D Lee, Wilfred, B Cubillo, Jerome, G Roe, Daniel

Absent - Edmund, Matthias, Satero, Joachim, J Cubillo, M Cubillo, M Dwyer, B Wohlfardt

History of the NTFL

St Marys Honour Board 1952/53 to 1994/95

Season	Pos	Coach	Captain	Best & Fairest	Leading Goalkicker	No Goals
1952/53	4	J Sweeney	T Egan	J Vaughan	J Vaughan	39
1953/54	3	J Sweeney	T Egan	R Apuartimi	J Saturinus	31
1954/55	1	H Sherlock	T Egan	W Roe	J Saturinus	42
1955/56	1	N Davies	N Davies	N Davies	J Saturinus	67
1956/57	3	H Sherlock	C Robb	G Roe	Stanislaus	28
1957/58	3	R O'Toole	C Robb	Stanislaus	Stanislaus	27
		M Lee				
1958/59	1	M Lee	T Lew Fatt	T Lew Fatt	R Chin	26
1959/60	1	M Lee	T Lew Fatt	R Tipungwuti	J Saturinus	28
1960/61	2	M Lee	T Lew Fatt	D Kantilla	R Stone	28
1961/62	1	T Lew Fatt	T Lew Fatt	T Lew Fatt	T Lew Fatt	33
1962/63	2	D Muller	D Muller	T Lew Fatt	Damescene	31
1963/64	2	D Muller	D Muller	T Lew Fatt	Sebastian	21
1964/65	3	W Roe	W Roe	G Lew Fatt	G Lew Fatt	29
1965/66	1	T Lew Fatt	T Lew Fatt	G Lew Fatt	W Roe	42
1966/67	1	T Lew Fatt	T Lew Fatt	G Lew Fatt	G Roe	51
1967/68	2	T Lew Fatt	T Lew Fatt	L Gregory	G Lew Fatt	33
1968/69	2	D Kantilla	D Kantilla	K Hill	G Roe	36
1969/70	2	R Butcher	R Butcher	M Graham	G Roe	78
1970/71	2	A T Shaw	A T Shaw	P Murphy	T Timeaptua	37
1971/72	1	A T Shaw	A T Shaw	P Murphy	P Murphy	31
1972/73	2	P Murphy	P Murphy	D Lew Fatt	G Roe	74
1973/74	4	R Butcher	R Butcher	M Graham	P Puruntatameri	60
1974/75	Competition suspended - Cyclone Tracy					
1975/76	3	A T Shaw	M Graham	B Cooper	E Rioli	29
1976/77	2	R Buckley	R Buckley	B Vigona	P Burgoyne	48
1977/78	1	R Buckley	R Buckley	B Vigona	P Burgoyne	50
					J Keriniaua	50
1978/79	1	A Rossetto	J Pepperill	E Liddy	M Graham	43
		C Chester				
1979/80	5	A Rossetto	J Pepperill	H Heystraten	A Puantimmi	33
1980/81	3	R Buckley	P March	S Dikolli	S Long	38
1981/82	2	P Atkinson	E Liddy	L Myles	S Long	44
1982/83	2	P Atkinson	E Liddy	M Athanasiou	D Turner	61
1983/84	1	I Taylor	E Liddy	M Athanasiou	B Vigona	39
1984/85	1	J Taylor	E Liddy	C Duma	D Duma	79
1985/86	1	J Taylor	E Liddy	B Long	D Duma	128
1986/87	1	J Taylor	E Liddy	D Berto	D Duma	75
1987/88	1	J Taylor	E Liddy	C Rioli	D Dunn	110
1988/89	3	J Taylor	B Long	M Long	D Dunn	92
1989/90	1	J Taylor	B Long	N Long	G Weetra	59
1990/91	1	J Taylor	B Long	M Athanasiou	C Long	75
1991/92	1	J Taylor	M Athanasiou	N Long	G Weetra	66
1992/93	2	J Taylor	M Athanasiou	N Long	A Corrie	74
1993/94	1	J Taylor	M Athanasiou	J Lidgewood	B Stanislaus	70
1994/95	1	J Taylor	M Athanasiou	B Stanislaus	B Stanislaus	70
1995/96	1	J Taylor	N Long	C Rioli	B Stanislaus	68
1996/97	1	J Thomas	C Rioli	T Weetra	B Stanislaus	57
1997/98	2	J Thomas	C Rioli	B Stanislaus	B Stanislaus	63
1998/99	2	E Liddy	A Perry	T Weetra	B Stanislaus	50
1999/00	3	E Liddy	A Perry	K Marsh	D Nolan	63
2000/01	5	D Lew Fatt	B Stanislaus	R Hill	D Nolan	58
2001/02	4	D Hale	B Stanislaus	I Vallejo	D Nolan	

History of the NTFL

St Marys Football Club - Runners-up 1970/71

*Buck - E Quinn (C'tee), P Watson, K Hannaford, D Kantilla, S Jeffrey, H Anderson, W Roe, G Brown (C'tee), V Ludwig
Middle - T Shaw (c/couch), T Timeapatua, Gerry Roe, K Kantilla, K Hill, J Tipungwuti, Gympie Lew Fatt Front - Henry
McLennan, J Pepperill, W Kerinaua*

*(Pres)
Paul, J Long, Hyacinth, J*

St Marys Football Club- Premiers 1984/85

*Back- B Devine, P Atkinson, D De Losa, H McPhee, W Smith, S Thomson, D Dunn, R McPhee, C Dunn, M Murray,
J Taylor (coach)
Middle - N Long, S Long, D Weetra, T Liddy (c), B Long, J Long, B Ainslie, T Vigona
Front - A Corrie, M Housley, M Athanasiou, A Cubillo, D Christensen, K Hill, B Christensen
Absent - D Berto*

History of the NTFL

NORTH DARWIN

In 1971, a group comprised mostly of soccer players banded together to form a club to be known as the Internationals so that they could keep fit by playing Aussie Rules in the off season to their Dry season competition. A prime mover was John O'Donoghue, but it was a very informal group who approached Keith Kemp to act as Patron (a position he has held since 1971), adopted the black and white colours of VFL/AFL club Collingwood, and approached the NTFL for permission to field a side in the Reserves competition. This they were allowed to do to fill in the then existing bye on a son of semi-official basis for the 1971/72 season.

1972/73 annual general meeting 14th August 1972.

Although not particularly successful, Internationals showed some promise and the following year they changed their name to North Darwin Football Club, and were admitted to the NTFL in 1972. North Darwin finished last on the NTFL Premiership ladders in the 1972/73 and 1973/74 seasons. Following the suspension of the 1974/75 season because of Cyclone Tracy, the football fraternity welcomed the 1975/76 season which started North Darwin's transformation and 'Cinderella' run from wooden spooners to regular finalists for the next six seasons.

North Darwin won 13 games in the 1975/76 season and made the Grand Final which they lost to Darwin. Following a promising start to the 1976/77 season when they won the Umpires Carnival, North Darwin went on to finish third on the ladder, losing the Preliminary Final to the eventual Premiers Waratahs. In 1977/78 under coach Tony Shaw, they finished runner-up to St Marys, finished third in 1978/79, and were runners-up to Darwin in 1979/80. In 1980/81, led by club stalwart Ian Smith as coach, North Darwin won their first and only NTFL Premiership by defeating Wanderers in the Grand Final. The club has won two Reserves Grade Premierships, the first one in 1979/80 under Coach Ray Bail was a real morale booster for the Club.

Two North Darwin players have won the League Best and Fairest Nichols Medal. They are Inn Wallace 1977/78 (tie) and Tony Lehman 1982/83.

Norths official colours are black and white vertical striped guernsey, black numbers, black logo shorts and black socks. For a short period in the 1980's the club's home base was a licensed club in Progress Drive, Nightcliff and was the result of the entrepreneurial management of the committee of the time. After using Sanderson High School oval for training and the Karama Tavern for meetings for a number of years, the Club established it's home base in the Archer Sporting Complex, Palmerston in 1995. The club has also changed its name to North Darwin/ Palmerston Magpies for the 1995/96 NTFL season.

One of the most highly rated local players to come from the club is Warren McCoy. A quiet unassuming player who although of slight build, had the strength and speed of a greyhound. Warren played in a number of positions for Norths namely back pocket, halfback flank, wing and half forward flank and gave the club 12 top years of football from 1978/79 to 1989/90. He was a member of Norths five Finals teams including the 1980/81 Premiership team, named in the NT News Team of the Year for 1978/79, 1980/81 and 1985/86, and was a member of the NT Representative Teams against Glenelg 1985 and Essendon 1986. Warren won North's Best and Fairest four times 1981/82, 1984/85, 1985/86 and 1989/90. He won the Australia Day Medal for Best on Ground in the 1985 game against Glenelg, and was runner-up in the Nichols Medal in 1985/86. Although he had offers from southern clubs, he did not venture south to play football.

History of the NTFL

The 1975/76 team which started the club's run of Finals participation for six consecutive seasons is considered one of North Darwin's best. The line-up was:

B	Dennis Gardiner	Max O'Hallaran	John Lauomtzis
HB	Peter Hamilton	Terry Cahill	Alan Wandin
C	Jeff Maltman	Danny Jenkins	David Russell
HF	Greg Roberts	Steven Hargraves	Gary Mowat
F	Terry Lalor	Geoff Clarke	Frank Cattelini
R&R	Wayne Delmenico	Ray Bail	Ian Smith (C)
19th	Warren Fraser		
20th	Don Henwood		
Coach	Ian Smith		

John O'Donoghue, Paul Appleby, Chris Walsh, David Johnston, Alan Black, Denise Fitzgerald, Ray Bail, Gary Dagg, Dean Hurrell, Warren Fraser, Ray Hayes, Peter Stevens and John Stokes are amongst a long list of North Darwin stalwarts who have over the years given dedicated and tireless service to the Club. Another name that deserves mentioning is Keith Kemp whose 24 years as Club Patron would be hard to beat in any Australian Football League.

North Darwin Football Club - Preliminary Finalist 1976/77

Back - I Smith, M O'Hallaran, G McDonald, R Galt, G Smallacombe, S Henwood

Middle - unknown, G Henwood, T Cahill, G Galt, R Bail, W McCoy. J King, unknown,

Front - D Johnston (Pres), G Moreland, J Stokes, A Collier (c/coach), A Kelly-Parker, B Hollingworth, P Steinfort, D Russell

History of the NTFL

North Darwin Honour Board 1972/73 to 1994/95

Season	Pos	Coach	Captain	Best & Fairest	Leading Goalkicker	No Goals
1972/73	6	F Chambers	P O'Brien	G Thompson	G Thompson	5
1973/74	6	I Smith	I Smith	I Smith	P Wooles	23
1974/75	Competition suspended - Cyclone Tracy					
1975/76	2	I Smith	I Smith	W Delmenico	G Clarke	65
1976/77	3	A Collier	A Collier	I Smith	G Henwood	28
1977/78	2	A T Shaw	I Smith	I Smith	J Stokes	44
1978/79	3	A T Shaw	I Smith	G Boucher	F Davey	46
1979/80	2	I Smith	J Stokes	J McLennon	D Nason	58
1980/81	1	I Smith	J Stokes	R Lee	P Munro	93
1981/82	6	I Smith	J Stokes	W McCoy	P Munro	51
1982/83	4	J Bates	W McCoy	W Parish	P Munro	81
		J Stokes				
1983/84	4	J Stokes	W McCoy	G Boucher	P Munro	77
1984/85	5	A Perrin	W McCoy	W McCoy	A Davey	33
1985/86	6	T Smith	T Smith	W McCoy	P Munro	21
1986/87	6	I Smith	W McCoy	M Tipingwuti	K Davey	18
1987/88	4	D Lew Fatt	C Millar	N Cammarano	D Cusack	27
1988/89	4	D Lew Fatt	C Millar	I Mattiazzo	D Narkle	43
1989/90	6	A Smith	A Smith	W McCoy	D Cusack	26
1990/91	6	D Bonson	D Cusack	M Townsend	A Garnards	12
		R Quail				
1991/92	6	D Jenkins	N Cammarano	C Molloy	M Townsend	30
1992/93	4	N Cammarano	C Kathopoulos	N Mourish	B Fischer	42
		D Lew Fatt				
1993/94	3	N Cammarano	R Cates	N Mourish	L Kerinuiua	40
		D Lew Fatt				
1994/95	7	D Guest	C Kathopoulos	A Kerinuiua	A Kerinuiua	20
1995/96	6	I Smith	A Kerinuiua	K Harris	A Kerinuiua	19
1996/97	5	S Abala	N Fisher	J Rhodes	J McLennan	29
			J Frank			
1997/98	5	S Abala	J Jones	R Jeffrey	S Feltus	27
1998/99	4	R Jeffrey	R Jeffrey	J Frank	A Turner	42
1999/00	2	R Jeffrey	M Tyrell	M Tyrell	T Simon	20
2000/01	1	R Jeffrey	M Tyrell	E Darcy	T Hentschel	69
2001/02	1	R Jeffrey	M Tyrell	M Addinsall	P Shepherd	

North Darwin Football Club -
Runners.up 1979/80

Back - I Smith (coach), M

Lovison, P Brown, D Beaton, M

Palmer, D Nason, G Petrie, A

Blight,

G Boucher, G Morris, M

Clement & N Payne (C'tee)

Middle - P Johns, W McCoy, E

McCoy, P Belford, D Russell, S

Tarr, S Clarke, K Lehmann, S

Austin Front - J Stokes (c), A

Davey, F Dave), G Priest, R

Sinclair, T Hodgson, K Struck, G

Power

History of the NTFL

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS

The Southern Districts Football club entered the NTFL League competition in the 1987/88 season. Prior to becoming a full member of the NTFL with teams in the League, Reserves and Under-age competitions, Southern Districts were originally admitted to the Under-16 competition in 1984/85, and the Under-18 and Reserves competitions in 1985/86.

The early beginnings of the club was originated by a group of parents wanting to give junior players in the Rural area an opportunity to compete in the Darwin Junior competition. Frank Carbone was the first President of the club with Duncan Beggs being President when the club was admitted to the League. Brian Hood was the coach of the club's first NTFL League team.

The club has adopted the colours of the AFL club St Kilda which is red, black and white, and call themselves the Crocodiles. The club has its own facilities at Freds Pass Reserve with clubhouse, change rooms and oval.

The League and Reserves teams have yet to win a Premiership, although the League team had its best seasons in 1989/90 and 1994/95 when it finished third. Ray Buckley and Bill Feeney were the respective coaches. The club has always been strong in the Junior competitions and won the Under-16 Premiership in 1988/89 and the Under-18 Premiership in 1989/90.

Brentley Hughes is the club's sole Nichols Medallist (1989/90), whilst Allen Jakovich was runner-up to Willie Rioli in 1988/89. Brentley Hughes also won the Australia Day Medal for Best on Ground in the Representative match against St Kilda in 1990.

The best local player produced by Southern Districts would have to be Fabian Francis. Fabian commenced his football career with the club's Junior grades in the 1987/88 season and played his first League game in the same season at the age of 14. He played a limited number of senior games, until he became a regular league player in the 1990/91 season and represented the NTFL against Melbourne in 1993. Fabian's football ability was recognised by AFL club Melbourne, who signed him up for the 1991 southern season. He played most of 1991 in the Reserves, had three League games, and was a member of the Melbourne Reserves Grand Final team, which finished runners-up to Brisbane Bears. Fabian spent 1992 in Darwin and was recruited by Brisbane Bears in 1993. Following a contractual disagreement with the Brisbane Bears, Fabian transferred to play with SANFL club Port Adelaide and was a member of the Club's 1995 Premiership team.

The club's league team that finished third in 1989/90 would rate as its best since the club's short time in the League competition. The line-up was:

B	Murray Hill	Darren Flanagan	Bill Taylor
HB	Shane Shewring	Mick Burns	Matthew Beggs
C	Craig Lambert	Paul Kemp	John Harvey
HF	Peter Hopkins	Greg Searle	Robbie Rusca
F	Adrian McAdam	Bradley Hughes	Steven Turner
R&R	Shane Lawson	Brentley Hughes (c)	Ian Cox
Interchange	Brett Hughes	Nell Russell	
Coach	Ray Buckley		

History of the NTFL

Southern Districts Honour Board 1987/88 to 1994/95

Season	Pos	Coach	Captain	Best & Fairest	Leading Goalkicker	No Goals
1987/88	7	B Hood	M Davis	G Allen	J Secrett	19
1988/89	6	B Hood	D Carroll	B Hughes	A Jakovich	104
1989/90	3	R Buckley	Brentley Hughes	S Lawson	Brad Hughes	38
1990/91	5	R Buckley	Brentley Hughes	N Buckley	N Buckley	27
		D Lew Fatt				
1991/92	7	D Lew Fatt	D Flanagan	R Rusca	M Hill	17
1992/93	6	W Feeney	G Taylor	S Turner	G Atkins	29
1993/94	4	W Feeney	G Smith	G Taylor	M Hill	24
1994/95	3	W Feeney	G Taylor	J Cockatoo	G Atkins	51
1995/96	2	M Motlop	D Flanagan	G Taylor	G Atkins	64
1996/97	3	M Motlop	W Feeney Jnr	P Johnson	G Atkins	67
			G Atkins			
1997/98	1	M Motlop	G Atkins	B Jarmyn	G Weetra	115
1998/99	3	M Motlop	G Atkins	K Maher	G Atkins	66
1999/00	4	M Motlop	S Shewrig	K Maher	R Keelan	
					J Sing	27
2000/01	3	M Motlop	D Francis	A McAdam	G Weetra	59
2001/02	6	J Fehring	D Francis	B Jarmyn	G Weetra	30

Frank Carbone, Duncan Beggs, Alan Smith, Brian Hood, Nick Day, Jill Potter, Daryl Copeland, Ray Smith and Therese Francis are amongst a long list of Southern Districts stalwarts who have over the years given dedicated and tireless service to the club.

*Southern Districts Football Club
- 1987/88 'Inaugural' Team
Back - D Carroll, R Waters, B Westblade, L Hayes, P Carbone, C Braam, B Hood (coach), J Maley (Patron) Middle - N Francis (Team/Manager), J Secrett, T Russell, P Bussenschutt, L Huddleston, S Shewring, N Stevens, G Dean
Front - D Beggs (Pres), N Day, G Smith, J Daby, G Allen, M Davis (c), H McAuley, R Rusca, S Raymond,
F Chambers
Absent - M Beggs, P Carter*

History of the NTFL

Southern Districts Football Club - Semi. Finalists 1993/94

Back. G Weetra, R Ryan, T Harvey, J Cockatoo, D Flanagan, R Lavercombe, B Sage

Middle. W Lee (Asst Coach), C Cotton (Trainer), B Feeney Jar, M Hill, S Shewring, G Taylor, R Rusca, W Mallie, B Ivory (C'tee)

Front - P Mallie (Team/Manager), M Spry, B Copeland, S Turner, D Thomas, R Keelan, A Harvey

Jarman, B Feeney Snr (Coach), B

Fabian Francis renews acquaintances with Alan Henderson, Property Steward with the Melbourne Football Club Day match 30/1/93. Fabian played three League games with Melbourne in 1991 and was a member of the Melbourne the Brisbane Bears in the 1991

Grand Final. (Photo courtesy of the NT News).

during NTFL/Melbourne Australia Reserves team which was defeated by

History of the NTFL

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GROUNDNS

Since football started in 1916 three main ovals have been used as the league's major venue for matches. The Esplanade or Town Oval was used from 1916 to 1954, the Gardens Oval from 1954 to 1991, and Football Park Marrara from 1991. All three ovals had their own characteristics, which make interesting talking points with players and spectators alike.

The Town Oval became known as the 'gravel rash' oval, as many players who happened to make contact with the ground invariably ended up with gravel rash on whatever part of the body scraped the surface of the ground. The ground was sparsely grassed but was littered with fine particles of gravel. It was quite picturesque, with a small grandstand backing on to Darwin Harbour and facing the Esplanade directly opposite the Darwin Hotel which still stands on it's original site. One of the disadvantages of its location was the number of footballs, which were lost when kicked into the harbour area. The oval was supplemented by the Parap Oval, which was located on the site now occupied by the Parap Swimming Pool.

The move to Gardens Oval in 1954 was welcomed by all footballers and spectators, as the ground had good grass cover, shady trees and lovely scenery of the Botanical Gardens palm trees display. Two grandstands were built by the Darwin City Council, but these and other facilities such as change rooms and toilets proved to be inadequate to cope with football's growing following. There was definitely more atmosphere at matches played at Gardens Oval mainly because of the closeness of spectators to the game. This was more noticeable at Darwin/St Marys games, with the Darwin supporters congregated behind the goal posts at the Darwin High School end of the ground, and the St Marys supporters at the Town end of the ground. As could well be imagined, there was never any peace for the poor Goal Umpires who copped plenty from both armies of supporters. Football was also played at the home grounds of Waratahs from 1962, Nightcliff from 1972, and Southern Districts (Fred's Pass Reserve) from 1987.

Football Park Marrara is one of Darwin's finest sporting arenas. The grandstand and grassed areas will accommodate a total of 22 000 people in comfort whilst offering a variety of viewing angles of the oval. The overall scenery will be further enhanced when the many trees planted in 1991 mature and provide more shade area for patrons who prefer watching matches from the built-up areas around both No. 1 and No. 2 ovals. Football Park Marrara is versatile; it is not only a superb football venue, but a panoramic venue for potential concerts, carnivals and special events. The facilities are superb with four large changerooms/shower toilet rooms for footballers, a functions room, restaurant, bar facilities and sufficient public toilets. The installation of ground lights in December 1994 has made Football Park Marrara the true showpiece of sports centres in Darwin and the Northern Territory.

Southern sporting identifies who attended the 1991 National TEAL Cup series, 1991 National Superules Championship, and Australia Day Representative matches in 1992, '93, '94 and '95 have applauded the magnificent facilities of Football Park Marrara. The opening ceremonies of the Pacific Schools Games in 1992 and the Arafura Games in 1993 and 1995 were held at Football Park, and the facilities received rare reviews from the participating states and countries.

History of the NTFL

'Town' or 'Esplanade' Oval
Main venue for Australian Rules Football between 1916 to 1953

Facing Grandstand

Facing Hotel Darwin

*Aerial shot of Gardens Oval, the main
venue for NTFL matches from 1954 to
1991*

History of the NTFL

Finals Results - 1917 to 1994/95

1917

Wanderers 1.10 d Waratahs 1.3

Note - No Finals played

1918

G/Final Wanderers 1.10 d Vesteys 1.3

Note - No details of other Finals played

1918/19

Semi-Final Waratahs d Vesteys by 10 points

G/Final Wanderers 9.9 d Waratahs 3.5

1919/20

Semi-Final Vesteys 7.5 d Waratahs 5.11

G/Final Wanderers 6.12 d Vesteys 3.9

1920/21

Semi-Final Waratahs 3.8 d Vesteys 3.5

Final Wanderers 5.9 d Waratahs 4.6

G/Final Waratahs 6.4 d Wanderers 5.3

1921/22

Semi-Final Wanderers d Waratahs on forfeit

G/Final Vesteys 5.6 d Wanderers 3.6

1922/23

Semi-Final Waratahs 7.1 d Vesteys 7.7

G/Final Wanderers 13.14 d Waratahs 6.10

1923/24

Semi-Final Wanderers d Vesteys on forfeit

G/Final Wanderers 13.23 d Waratahs 3.6

1924/25

Semi-Final Vesteys 5.10 d Waratahs 4.8

Final Vesteys 6.14 d Wanderers 5.4

G/Final Vesteys 5.10 d Wanderers 2.1

1925/26

Semi-Final Vesteys 8.10 d Rovers 4.5

Final Vesteys 9.10 d Waratahs 6.7

G/Final Vesteys 5.10 d Waratahs 1.10

1926/27

Semi-Final Buffaloes 6.5 d Waratahs 3.10

Final Buffaloes 6.5 d Magpies 2.7

G/Final Buffaloes 3.11 d Magpies 3.7

1927/28

Semi-Final Waratahs 9.12 d Buffaloes 3.7

G/Final Magpies d Waratahs

- No scores available

1928/29

Semi-Final Buffaloes 3.9 d Magpies 0.10

G/Final Waratahs 10.15 d Buffaloes 3.6

Finals Results 1917 to 1994/95

1929/30

Semi-Final Buffaloes 7.7 d Wanderers 4.8

Final Buffaloes 6.6 d Waratahs 5.9

G/Final Waratahs 10.9 d Buffaloes 5.5

1930/31

Semi-Final Waratahs 10.14 d Wanderers 10.3

Final Waratahs 9.7 d Buffaloes 7.11

G/Final Waratahs 10.14 d Buffaloes 6.10

1931/32

Semi Final Waratahs 6.11 d Wanderers 4.8

G/Final Buffaloes 12.5 d Waratahs 3.9

1932/33

Semi-Final Buffaloes 6.8 d Wanderers 2.5

Final Buffaloes 8.15 d Waratahs 5.6

G/Final Buffaloes 6.7 drew Waratahs 6.7

Replay

G/Final Waratahs 12.13 d Buffaloes 5.5

1933/34

Semi-Final Buffaloes 6.15 d Wanderers 4.5

Final Buffaloes 13.14 d Waratahs 8.8

G/Final Buffaloes 9.17 d Waratahs 7.6

1934/35

Final Buffaloes 14.15 d Garrison 4.9

G/Final Buffaloes d Waratahs on forfeit

1935/36

Semi-Final Wallabies 10.15 d Wanderers 9.7

Final Buffaloes d Wallabies

No scores available. Buffaloes won by 13 pts

1936/37

Semi-Final Buffaloes 5.8 d Waratahs 3.8

G/Final Garrison 9.6 d Buffaloes 6.11

1937/38

Semi-Final Buffaloes 9.9 d Garrison 6.8

G/Final Waratahs 9.6 d Buffaloes 7.9

1938/39

Semi-Final Buffaloes 11.7 d Waratahs 7.8

G/Final Garrison 9.12 d Buffaloes 4.10

1939/40

1stSemi Waratahs 10.10 d Air Force 7.6

2ndSemi Garrison 7.9 d Mobile 6.9

P/Final Mobile 8.12 d Waratahs 4.11

G/Final Mobile 6.9 d Garrison 6.5

History of the NTFL

Finals Results 1917 to 1994/95

1940/41 1953/54
 1stSemi Buffaloes 6.13 d Garrison 5.11
 2ndSemi Waratahs 10.12 d Air Force 2.7
 P/Final Buffaloes 8.7 d Air Force 5.15
 G/Final Waratahs 8.9 d Buffaloes 6.11
 1941 to 1946
 Competition suspended due to World War 2
 1946/47 2ndSemi
 1stSemi RAAF 21.17 d RAN 4.8
 2ndSemi Waratahs 14.13 d Buffaloes 10.6
 P/Final Buffaloes 10.8 d RAAF 9.8
 G/Final Waratahs 13.11 d Buffaloes 9.6
 1947/48
 1stSemi Wand 12.24 d Army/Navy 7.5
 2ndSemi Buffaloes 10.6 d Waratahs 9.10
 P/Final Waratahs 7.9 d Wanderers 4.7
 G/Final Waratahs 9.8 d Buffaloes 6.13
 1948/49
 1stSemi Waratahs 12.11 d Army 5.2
 2ndSemi Wanderers 9.15 d Buffaloes 7.13
 P/Final Buffaloes 12.17 d Waratahs 10.8
 G/Final Buffaloes 14.12 d Wanderers 7.8
 1949/50
 1stSemi Services 10.5 d Waratahs 8.11
 2ndSemi Buffaloes 9.23 d Wanderers 11.10
 P/Final Wanderers 12.12 d Services 7.11
 G/Final Buffaloes 10.11 d Wanderers 2.5
 1950/51
 1stSemi Waratahs 18.16 d Services 7.10
 2ndSemi Buffaloes 11.17 d Wanderers 4.11
 P/Final Waratahs 12.3 d Wanderers 8.10
 G/Final Buffaloes 12.12 d Waratahs 10.6
 1951/52
 1stSemi Wanderers 15.12 d Waratahs 8.18
 2ndSemi Buffaloes 5.14 d Works/Hous 6.5
 P/Final Wand 12.11 d Works/Hous 11.12
 G/Final Buffaloes 12.12 d Wanderers 10.6
 1952/53
 1stSemi Wanderers 11.15 d St Marys 9.14
 2ndSemi Buffaloes 11.9 drew Waratahs 11.9
 Replay Buffaloes 16.11 d Waratahs 10.12
 P/Final Waratahs 14.12 d Wanderers 8.9
 G/Final Waratahs 10.10 d Buffaloes 6.11

Finals Results 1917 to 1994/95

1stSemi StMarys 12.11 dWorks/House 6.13
 2ndSemi Buffaloes 7.5 d Waratahs 5.11
 P/Final Waratahs 9.7 d St Marys 6.2
 G/Final Waratahs 6.9 d Buffaloes 3.9
 1954/55
 1stSemi Buffaloes 14.11 dWorks/Hous 5.7
 St Marys 8.9 d Waratahs 7.10
 P/Final Buffaloes 11.6 d Waratahs 8.8
 G/Final St Marys 10.12 d Buffaloes 5.12
 1955/56
 1st Semi Buffaloes 13.16dWorks/Hous7.16
 2ndSemi St Marys 18.10 d Waratahs 8.9
 P/Final Waratahs 9.15 d Buffaloes 5.7
 G/Final St Marys 8.8 d Waratahs 7.9
 1956/57
 1stSemi Buffaloes 10.6 d Waratahs 6.7
 2ndSemi Works/Hous 7.15 d St Marys 5.4
 P/Final Buffaloes 8.10 d St Marys 7.10
 G/Final W/Hous 15.11 d Buffaloes 12.2
 1957/58
 1stSemi St Marys 11.15 d Buffaloes 5.6
 2ndSemi Works/Hous 21.7 d Wand 13.9
 P/Final Wanderers 12.15 d StMarys 10.18
 G/Final Wanderers 17.9 d Works/Hous 14.18
 1958/59
 1stSemi Buffaloes 8.13 d Wanderers 7.8
 2ndSemi St Marys 16.14 d Works/Hous 4.6
 P/Final Buffaloes 14.8 d Works/Hous 8.13
 G/Final St Marys 17.20 d Buffaloes 6.6
 1959/60
 1stSemi Wanderers 11.17 d W/Hous 10.9
 2ndSemi Buffaloes 10.5 d St Marys 8.14
 P/Final St Marys 10.16 d Wanderers 10.5
 G/Final St Marys 12.9 d Buffaloes 5.4
 1960/61
 1stSemi Wanderers 11.11 d Waratahs 10.9
 2ndSemi St Marys 13. 11 d Works/Hous 7.15
 P/Final Works/Hous 21.13 d Wanderers 3.10
 G/Final Works/Hous 10.8 d St Marys 6.18

History of the NTFL

Finals Results 1917 to 1994/95

1961/62	
1stSemi	Buffaloes 8.9 d Wanderers 8.3
2ndSemi	St Marys 10.9 d Works/Hous 5.5
P/Final	Buffaloes 7.16 d Works/Hous 8.7
G/Final	St Marys 10.12 d Buffaloes 8.8
1962/63	
1stSemi	Works/Hous 6.14 d Wanderers 7.7
2ndSemi	Darwin 8.10 d St Marys 8.5
P/Final	St Marys 15.19 d Works/Hous 7.12
G/Final	Darwin 11.7 d St Marys 6.7
1963/64	
1stSemi	St Marys 9.10 d Waratahs 7.8
2ndSemi	Darwin 3.12 d Nightcliff 2.14
P/Final	St Marys 16.9 d Nightcliff 4.11
G/Final	Darwin 8.9 d St Marys 4.10
1964/65	
1st Semi	Nightcliff 15.11 d Waratahs 7.7
2ndSemi	Darwin 10.11 d St Marys 8.7
P/Final	Nightcliff 8.16 drew St Marys 9.10
Replay	Nightcliff 6.12 d St Marys 4.10
G/Final	Nightcliff 11.13 d Darwin 5.10
1965/66	
1stSemi	Darwin 14.17 d Waratahs 3.7
2ndSemi	Nightcliff 15.7 d St Marys 11.5
P/Final	St Marys 13.11 d Darwin 9.14
G/Final	St Marys 17.11 d Nightcliff 11.10
1966/67	
1stSemi	Nightcliff 9.8 d Waratahs 5.8
2ndSemi	Darwin 11.11 d St Marys 9.17
P/Final	St Marys 13.11 d Nightcliff 9.7
G/Final	St Marys 15.9 d Darwin 11.11
1967/68	
1stSemi	Nightcliff 6.20 d Waratahs 7.6
2ndSemi	Darwin 8.12 d St Marys 8.4
P/Final	St Marys 8.14 d Nightcliff 6.11
G/Final	Darwin 7.10 d St Marys 1.2
1968/69	
1stSemi	St Marys 11.11 d Waratahs 5.10
2ndSemi	Darwin 11.16 d Nightcliff 6.13
P/Final	St Marys 17.11 d Nightcliff 15.9
G/Final	Darwin 16.13 d St Marys 9.13
1969/70	
1stSemi	Nightcliff 12.11 d Waratahs 9.13
2ndSemi	St Marys 15.18 d Darwin 12.8
P/Final	Darwin 16.20 d Nightcliff 7.10
G/Final	Darwin 12.13 d St Marys 11.6

Finals Results 1917 to 1994/95

1970/71	
1stSemi	Waratahs 12.11 d Nightcliff 7.5
2ndSemi	Darwin 9.14 d St Marys 8.11
P/Final	St Marys 12.14 d Waratahs 6.8
G/Final	Darwin 16.7 d St Marys 7.13
1971/72	
1stSemi	St Marys 11.9 d Nightcliff 8.7
2ndSemi	Darwin 14.17 d Waratahs 11.2
P/Final	St Marys 10.13 d Waratahs 10.3
G/Final	St Marys 13.7 d Darwin 12.12
1972/73	
1stSemi	Waratahs 11.15 d Nightcliff 10.17
2ndSemi	Darwin 11.10 d St Marys 11.8
P/Final	St Marys 10.8 d Waratahs 9.11
G/Final	Darwin 7.13 d St Marys 3.7
1973/74	
1stSemi	Darwin 8.8 d St Marys 8.6
2ndSemi	Nightcliff 13.8 d Waratahs 11.8
P/Final	Waratahs 16.7 d Darwin 11.11
G/Final	Waratahs 13.11 d Nightcliff 13.8
1974/75	- Competition suspended - Cyclone Tracy
1975/76	
1stSemi	St Marys 14.9 d Nightcliff 11.15
2ndSemi	Darwin 9.12 d Nth Darwin 6.11
P/Final	Nth Darwin 15.12 d St Marys 12.13
G/Final	Darwin 16.14 d Nth Darwin 11.6
1976/77	
1stSemi	Nth Darwin 9.7 d Darwin 6.7
2ndSemi	St Marys 14.10 d Waratahs 6.13
P/Final	Waratahs 15.17 d Nth Darwin 6.8
G/Final	Waratahs 10.15 d St Marys 8.14
1977/78	
1stSemi	Nightcliff 18.19 d Wanderers 14.5
2ndSemi	St Marys 9.8 d Nth Darwin 8.5
P/Final	Nth Darwin 12.10 d Nightcliff 11.8
G/Final	St Marys 15.17 d Nth Darwin 13.6
1978/79	
1stSemi	Nth Darwin 10.16 d Darwin 8.8
2ndSemi	Nightcliff 12.11 d St Marys 10.19
P/Final	St Marys 13.9 d Nth Darwin 12.5
G/Final	St Marys 17.15 d Nightcliff 13.8
1979/80	
1stSemi	Nightcliff 16.10 d Waratahs 10.7
2ndSemi	Nth Darwin 13.14 d Darwin 10.15
P/Final	Darwin 18.15 d Nightcliff 12.13
G/Final	Darwin 12.11 d Nth Darwin 6.4

History of the NTFL

Finals Results 1917 to 1994/95

1980/81	
1stSemi	St Marys 19.16 d Darwin 11.9
2ndSemi	Nth Darwin 13.8 d Wand 12.10
P/Final	Wanderers 12.13 d St Marys 7.1
G/Final	Nth Darwin 15.9 d Wand 14.9
1981/82	
1stSemi	Nightcliff 11.15 d Darwin 11.13
2ndSemi	St Marys 13.12 dWanderers9.15
P/Final	Wand 15.11 d Nightcliff 11.11
G/Final	Wanderers 13.14 d StMarys 13.13
1982/83	
1stSemi	Darwin 16.11 d Nth Darwin 13.17
2ndSemi	Wand 16.15 d St Marys 11.15
P/Final	St Marys 22.16 d Darwin 11.5
G/Final	Wand 14.8 d St Marys 12.9
1983/84	
1stSemi	Wand 15.14 d Nth Darwin 13.12
2ndSemi	Darwin 14.8 d St Marys 11.12
P/Final	St Marys 26.12 d Wand 10.10
G/Final	St Marys 13.11 d Darwin 11.11
1984/85	
1stSemi	Wanderers 22.11 d Nightcliff 8.10
2ndSemi	St Marys 15.13 d Darwin 14.13
P/Final	Wanderers 17.12 d Darwin 16.8
G/Final	St Marys 13.20 d Wanderers 13.7
1985/86	
1stSemi	Nightcliff 16.8 d Waratahs 4.8
2ndSemi	StMarys25.13 d Wanderers 13.13
P/Final	Nightcliff 9.13 dWanderers 9.10
G/Final	St Marys 32.19 d Nightcliff 4.9
1986/87	
1stSemi	Wanderers 16.18 d Nightcliff 6.7
2ndSemi	St Marys 15.20 d Darwin 9.11
P/Final	Darwin 23.6 d Wanderers 5.12
G/Final	St Marys 26.14 d Darwin 7.7
1987/88	
1stSemi	Nightcliff 9.14 d Nth Darwin 9.5
2ndSemi	St Marys 18.15 d Darwin 6.8
P/Final	Darwin 15.14 d Nightcliff 10.9
G/Final	St Marys 19.15 d Darwin 10.8
1988/89	
1stSemi	Darwin 23.9 d Nth Darwin 15.10
2 nd Semi	Wanderers 19.12 d St Marys 15.13
P/Final	Darwin 12.16 d St Marys 11.12
G/Final	Darwin 12.8 d Wanderers 10.6
1989/90	
1stSemi	Sthn Dist 18.10 d Waratahs 15.10
2ndSemi	St Marys 21.10 d Darwin 5.12
P/Final	Darwin 15.9 d Sthn Dist 10.7
G/Final	St Marys 28.15 d Darwin 10.15

Finals Results 1917 to 1994/95

1990/91	
1stSemi	Darwin 13.11 d Waratahs 10.9
2ndSemi	St Marys 23.11 d Nightcliff 11.7
P/Final	Darwin 9.12 d Nightcliff 7.16
G/Final	St Marys 22.13 d Darwin 14.8
1991/92	
1stSemi	Darwin 7.4 d Wanderers 5.7
2ndSemi	St Marys 18.12 d Waratahs 9.5
P/Final	Darwin 13.7 d Waratahs 11.17
G/Final	St Marys 15.7 d Darwin 9.12
1992/93	
1stSemi	Wand 22.13 d Nth Darwin 11.13
2ndSemi	St Marys 17.14 d Waratahs 6.12
P/Final	Wand 12.11 d Waratahs 10.8
G/Final	Wanderers 16.9 d St Marys 8.6
1993/94	
1stSemi	Nth Dwn 12.11 d Sthn Dist 12.8
2ndSemi	St Marys 20.16 d Darwin 10.9
P/Final	Darwin 18.14 d Nth Darwin 13.9
G/Final	St Marys 26.8 d Darwin 7.7
1994/95	
1stSemi	Sthn Dist 10.8 d Wand 10.7
2ndSemi	St Marys 21.14 d Darwin 4.5
P/Final	Darwin 13.12 d Sthn Dist 11.10
G/Final	St Marys 21.13 d Darwin 6.6
1995/96	
1 st Semi	Sthn Dist 28.9 d Wand 10.7
2 nd Semi	St Mary's 12.11 d Darwin 7.9
P/Final	Sthn Dist 17.7 d Darwin 4.12
G/Final	St Mary's 13.11 d Sthn Dist 11.9
1996/97	
1 st Semi	Sthn Dist 11.13 d Wand 8.9
2 nd Semi	Tahs 15.8 d St Mary's 7.6
P/Final	St Mary's 17.10 d Sthn Dist 15.10
G/Final	St Mary's 21.9 d Tahs 11.8
1997/98	
1 st Semi	Waratahs 20.20 d
2 nd Semi	St Mary's 17.7 d Sthn Dist 9.11.65
P/Final	Sthn Dist 9.4 d Waratahs 6.8
G/Final	Sthn Dist 17.8 d St Mary's 12.13
1998/99	
1 st Semi	
2 nd Semi	
P/Final	
G/Final	
1999/00	
1 st Semi	St Mary's 12.10 d Sthn Dist 6.9
2 nd Semi	Magpies 10.13 d Waratahs 4.14
P/Final	Waratahs 12.11 d St Mary's 11.8
G/Final	Waratahs 14.12 d Magpies 8.8
2000/01	

History of the NTFL

NTFL Grand Final Teams, Scores, Best Players, Goalkickers from 1970/71 to 1994/95

1970/71	Darwin	defeated		St Marys		
B	B McLean	G Butler	B Garner	A Shaw (c)	Henry Paul	J Tipungwuti
HB	B Elix (c)	F Ahmatt	S Abala	K Hill	J Long	P Watson
C	B Shields	C Moyle	R Quail	H Anderson	G Roe	Hyacinth
HF	J Tye	S Rossetto	A Rossetto	J Pepperill	T Timeapatua	W Kerinaua
F	T Muir	R Baxter	Rueben Cooper	K Kantilla	W Roe	J McLennan
R&R	A Rusmussen	W Ahmatt	D Stokes	D Kantilla	J Cloonan	G Lew Fatt
Res	J Hobbs	L Coles	S Jeffrey	K Hannaford		
Coach	B Elix			AT Shaw		
Darwin	1.3	5.5	10.5	16.7(103)		
St Marys	2.6	5.8	6.10	7.13(55)		

Best Players

Darwin Rueben Cooper (BOG), R Quail, W Ah Mat, F Ah Mat, J Tye

St Marys T Timeapatua, J Tipungwuti, P Watson, J Cloonan

Goalkickers

Darwin Rueben Cooper 6, R Baxter, T Muir 3 ea, D Stokes 2, S Rossetto, W Ah Mat 1 ea

Saint Marys G Roe 2, B Roe, D Kantilla, T Timeapatua, W Kerinaua, G Lew Fatt 1 ea

1971/72	St Marys	defeated		Darwin		
B	B Boustead	B Broderick	J Long	J Hobbs	G Butler	T Muir
HB	I Carter	J Tipungwuti	K Hill	T Tye	L Coles	W McLean
C	L Gregory	S Rioli	T Perkins	R Quail	C Moyle	T Quail
HF	P March	T Timeapatua	W Kerinaua	Ron Cooper	A Rossetto	Reuben Cooper
F	K Hannaford	G Roe	J Pepperill	A Rusmussen	R Garner	E Clarke
R&R	Hughie Paul	S Jeffrey	P Murphy	G Kenny	W Ah Mat (c)	D Stokes
Res	X Clark	K McCarthy		R Baxter	F Ah Mat	
Coach	AT Shaw (c)			W Ah Mat		
St Marys	2.1	6.2	9.5	13.7(85)		
Darwin	6.3	8.4	10.8	12.12(84)		

Best Players

St Marys S Rioli, S Jeffrey, P Murphy, T Timeapatua, G Roe

Darwin W Ah Mat, D Stokes, G Butler, A Rusmussen, C Moyle

Goalkickers

St Marys G Roe 6, T Timeapatua 3, H Paul 2, W Kerinaua, P Murphy 1 ea

Darwin R Garner 3, E Clarke 2, G Kenny, A Rossetto, W Ah Mat, D Stokes, A Rusmussen, Ron Cooper, Reuben Cooper 1 ea

1972/73	Darwin	defeated		St Marys		
B	B McLean	G Butler	T Muir	H Anderson	B Campbell	J Long
HB	G Ahmatt	L McGuinness	J Cooper	B Matthews	G Bowden	P Bartlett
C	R Quail	R Cooper	K Quall	L Puruntatameri	P March	L Gregory
HF	N Hagen	A Muir	J Tye	T Perkins	G Roe	D Lew Fatt
F	E Clarke	T Calyun	B Garner	K Hannaford	J Pepperill	G Williams
R&R	G Kenny	W Ahmatt (c)	D Stokes	K McCarthy	W Kerinaua	P Murphy (c)
Res	J McLeod	S Abala		J McLennon	Janarius	
Coach	W Ahmatt			P Murphy		
Darwin	2.3	3.6	6.8	7.13(55)		
St Marys	1.2	1.4	2.5	3.7(19)		

Best Players

Darwin J Tye, K Quail, L McGuinness, N Hagen, R Quall

St Marys D Lewfatt, P Bartlett, J Long, W Kerinaua, G Bowden

Goalkickers

Darwin T Calyun 3, A Muir 2, J Tye, R Cooper 1 each

St Marys P Murphy, G Roe, B Campbell 1 each

1973/74	Waratahs	defeated		Nightcliff		
B	H McPhee	R Zerna	V Budd	T Dragun	A McNamara	B Ash
HB	L Norrish	B Haines	P Goodrem	E Hayes	A Shields	G Peris
C	B Tilbrook	K Nickels	M Wall	D Kicker	P Roach	C Suradi
HF	S Norman	A Wilkie	B McKenzie(c)	C Roberts	N Watson	J 'rye
F	T Miller	W Lee	M Lee	K Pattinson	M Crawshaw(c)	A Oates
R&R	C McVicar	M PouRer	S Short	C Ciatkowski	L Roach	J Daby
Res	B Winter	C Collins		D Witham	M Groves	
Coach	P Haysman			A T Shaw		
Waratahs	5.3	9.5	11.9	13. 11(89)		
Nightcliff	1.0	6.4	11.6	13.8(86)		
Best Players						
Waratahs	A Wilkie, T Miller, C McVicar, B haines, M Poulter					
Nightcliff	J Tye, A Oates, K Pattinson, T Dragun, G Peris					
Goalkickers						
Waratahs	T Miller 3, W Lee, S Short, R McKenzie 2 each, M Wall, C McVicar, M Lee, A Wilkie 1 each					
Nightcliff	J Tye 4, M Crawshaw 3, N Watson, A Oates, C Roberts, C Suradi, K Pattinson, T Dragun 1 each					

1974/75 - Competition suspended due to Cyclone Tracy

1975/76	Darwin	defeated		North Darwin		
B	I Arnfeldt	T Muir	B Ryan	D Gardiner	M O'Hallaran	J Lauomtzis
HB	B Doefing	B Damaso	K Bonson	P Hamilton	T Cahill	A Wandin
C	R Quail	Ron Cooper	K Biddell	J Maltman	D Jenkins	D Russell
HF	W Ahmatt(c)	T Hogan	N Hagen	G Roberts	S Hargraves	G Mowat
F	G Bandy	A Muir	P Quail	F Cattehni	G Clarke	T Lalor
R&R	G Kenny	Rob Cooper	E Clarke	W Delmenico	R Bail	I Smith (c)
Res	D Raymond	J Cooper		W Fraser	D Henwood	
Coach	W Ahmatt			I Smith		
Darwin	2.2	6.3	12.7	16.14(110)		
North Darwin	2.2	4.4	7.5	11.6(72)		
Best Players						
Darwin	T Muir, G Kenny, A Muir, R Quail, W Ahmatt					
North Darwin	D Jenkins, F Cattellini, R Bail, M O'Hallaran					
Goalkickers						
Darwin	A Muir, W Ahmatt 4 each, Rob Cooper 3, E Clarke 2, Ron Cooper, R Quail, N Hagen 1 each					
North Darwin	G Clarke 4, F Cattellini, A Wandin 2 each, R Bail, G Roberts, W Delmenico 1 each					

1976/77	Waratahs	defeated			St Marys	
B	P Goodrem	R Zerna	D Bone	J Long	X Clarke	P Perkins
HB	L Norrish	C Spry	P Ashton	K Doolan	T Zorich	J Sullivan
C	S Short	K Nickels(c)	T Lee	T Liddy	P March	B Vigona
HF	G Boyle	D Bakes	J Gannon	P Burgoyne	R Salmon	I Bradmore
F	A Wilkie	T Clarke	M Purantatameri	L Myles	M Brown	K Wanganeen
R&R	G Smart	H McPhee	T Sandery	R Buckley (c)	P Hoult	J Pepperill
Res	S Broadstock	J Jenkins	S Jeffrey	S Tipaloura		
Coach	B Elix			R Buckley		
Waratahs	0.8	3.10	9.13	10.15(75)		
St Marys		2.2	3.8	5.10	8.1(62)	
Best Players						
Waratahs	D Bakes, T Sandery, C Spry, S Short, K Nickels					
St Marys	T Liddy, P Hour, I Bradmore, P Burgoyne, T Zorich					
Goalkickers						
Waratahs	S Short 3, T Clarke, A Wilkie 2 each, G Boyle, T Sandery, K Nickels 1 each					
St Marys	I Bradmore 3, M Brown, R Salmon, J Pepperill, P Burgovne, S Tipaloura 1each					

History of the NTFL

1977/78 St Marys		defeated		North Darwin		
B	P Perkins	X Clarke	C Graham	L Reynolds	L Robson	B Magin
HB	J Clarke	H Anderson	J Pepperill	R Wilkinson	P Garrett	D Gardiner
C	T Liddy	J Sullivan	B Vigona	M Azzapardi	I Smith(c)	D Russell
HF	R Chislett	W Wilson	P Burgoyne	S Williamson	G Boucher	A Davey
F	P March	S Tipaloura	J Keriniaua	D Nason	J Brenton	F Davey
R&R	R Buckley (c)	B Bennett	K Wanganeen	P Brown	I Wallace	J Stokes
Res	S Jeffrey	R Smith		S Austin	K Struck	
Coach	R Buckley			A T Shaw		
St Marys	5.5	8.13	12.16	15.17 (107)		
North Darwin	2.0	5.2	12.3	13.6 (84)		
Best Players						
St Marys	B Vigona, W Wilson, P March, B Bennett, J Sullivan					
North Darwin	S Williamson, A Davey, P Brown, I Wallace, J Stokes					
Goalkickers						
St Marys	W Wilson, B Vigona 5 each, J Keriniaua 2, B Bennett, R Chislett, R Smith 1 each					
North Darwin	P Brown, A Davey 3 each, F Davey, J Stokes 2 each, I Wallace, I Smith, M Azzapardi 1 each					

1978/79 St Marys		defeated		Nightcliff		
B	P Perkins	X Clarke	H Anderson	C Faulkner	L Chapman	D Gibson
HB	L Rioli	P Lauriston	J Sullivan (c)	J Tye	L Roach	P Elkins
C	T Liddy	M Steele	H Corrie	P Roach	P Hofner	M Diorio
HF	M Graham	W Wilson	A Puntjimi	J Daby	K Bickley	G Peris
F	P March	C Chester	D Ryan	R Wolter	M White	M Crawshaw
R&R	H Heystraten	M Caple	G Menzel	A Oates (c)	J Johnson	M Motlop
Res	K Wanganeen	S Tiploura		C Porter	D Peris	
Coach	A Rossetto			B Elix		
St Marys	5.4	8.6	13.10	17.15 (117)		
Nightcliff	5.1	8.5	11.5	13.8 (86)		
Best Players						
St Marys	M Graham, H Heystraten, T Liddy, P Lauriston, L Rioli					
Nightcliff	D Gibson, M Motlop, C Faulkner, G Peris, M White					
Goalkickers						
St Marys	C Chester 7, M Graham 5, K Wanganeen 2, W Wilson, G Menzel, M Caple 1 each					
Nightcliff	M White 6, G Peris 2, R Wolter, J Daby, M Diorio, M Motlop, M Crawshaw 1 each					

1979/80 Darwin		defeated		North Darwin		
B	G Johnston	A Hill	G Bonson	G Priest	A Blight	M Palmer
HB	B Damaso	J Paterson(c)	D Bonson	T Hodgson	G Morris	E McCoy
C	O Angeles	Ron Cooper	G Delacruz	W McCoy	D Russell	J McLennan
HF	L Hayes	T Thorne	T Lawler	P Belford	G Petrie	A Davey
F	Rob Cooper	M Poulter	V Keriniaua	P Brown	D Nason	F Davey
R&R	G Kenny	J Bates	D Wilson	M Lovison	G Boucher	J Stokes (c)
Res	R Quail	E Kitching		D Beaton	M Clarke	
Coach	J Bates			I Smith		
Darwin	1.5	4.5	8.8	12.11 (83)		
North Darwin	0.2	3.3	4.8	6.10(46)		
Best Players						
Darwin	A Hill, G Bonson. G Johnston, T Thome, G Delaeruz					
North Darwin	A Blight, P Brown, G Priest, F Davey, M Clarke					
Goalkickers						
Darwin	T Thorne 4, Rob Cooper, J Angeles 2 each, E Kitching, V Keriniaua, L Hayes, T Lawler 1					
North Darwin	J Stokes, G Boucher, F Davey, M Lovison, G Petrie, W McCoy 1 each					

History of the NTFL

1980/81	North Darwin	defeated		Wanderers		
B	E McCoy	A Blight	M Palmer	K Norton	J Harrop	D Kelly
HB	H Jenner	G Morris		T Maddison	P Nikoletos	P Anderson B Ellis
C	F Davey	R Sparkes	P Belford	B Shields	G Wanganeen(c)	D McDowell
HF	W McCoy	M Lovison	J McLennon	J Goninon	R McGorman	J Cooper
F	G Boucher	P Munro	J Stokes (c)	P Stennett	E Thompson	K Wanganeen
R&R	P Brown	T Hodgson	R Lee	D Hindson	D Russell	P Cubillo
Res	J Hall	J Lovison		M Case	C Delacore	
Coach	I Smith			S Abala		
North Darwin	6.3	12.3	15.7	15.9(99)		
Wanderers	0.4	3.8	6.9	14.9(93)		
Best Players						
North Darwin	P Munro, P Belford, R Sparkes, T Maddison, J Lovison					
Wanderers	D Russell, P Anderson, P Cubillo, D Hindson, D Kelly					
Goalkickers						
North Darwin	P Munro 7, J Stokes 2, W McCoy, R Lee, A Davey, R Sparkes, G Boucher, P Belford 1 each					
Wanderers	P Cubillo 3, E Thompson, R McGorman, J Goninon, P Stennett 2 each, B Shields, J Cooper, K Wanganeen 1 each					

1981/82	Wanderers	defeated		St Marys		
B	J Jeffrey	J Harrop (c)	D Smith	A Cubillo	G Hill	B Ellis
HB	B Ellis	R Leskovec	P Nikoletos	J Cusack	M Athanasiou	B Long
C	G Russell	P Filler	B Hearne	W Roe	L Myles	T Liddy(c)
HF	J Taylor	D Millar	D Russell	P Burgoyne	D Cusack	M Graham
F	P Stennett	D Kelly	E Cubillo	J Long	B Hemming	S Long
R&R	R McGorman	J Rafferty	K Wanganeen	H Heystraten	Manny Rioli	J McCormick
Res	P Mehaffey	P Cubillo		D Dunn	S Hodge	
Coach	S Abala			P Atkinson		
Wanderers		4.1	8.6	12.9	13.13(91)	
St Marys		5.2	5.8	8.11	13.12(90)	
Best Players						
Wanderers	D Millar, K Wanganeen, J Harrop, P Nikoletos, D Kelly					
St Marys	L Myles, W Roe, J McCormick, H Heystraten, Manny Rioli					
Goalkickers						
Wanderers	D Kelly 5, D Millar 3, P Stennett 2, E Cubillo, J Rafferty, K Wanganeen 1 each					
St Marys	S Long, M Graham 3 each, L Myles 2, J McCormick, H Heystraten, D Cusack, P Burgoyne, T Liddy 1 each					

1982/83	Wanderers	defeated			St Marys	
B	J Jeffrey	J Harrop	J Kelly	D Berto	G Hill	T Liddy (c)
HB	T Neville	D Millar	B Ellis	B Long	M Athanasiou	J Cusack
C	E Cubillo	G Wanganeen (c) D Russell		M Graham	L Myles	A Moscheni
HF	K McKeown	J Rafferty	P Nikoletos	S Rioli	B Allen	D Cusack
F	P Stennett	P Filler	K Wanganeen	C Rioli	D Turner	J Long
R&R	D Kelly	G Russell	P Cubillo	T Cullinane	R McPhee	G Menzel
Inter	E McKenzie	R Stansborough		P Burgoyne	A Cubillo	
Coach	S Abala				P Atkinson	
Wanderers		2.3	5.5	9.7	14.8(92)	
St Marys		4.2	7.5	9.6	12.9(81)	
Best Players						
Wanderers	T Neville, P Nikoletos, K Wanganeen, G Russell, D Russell					
St Marys	T Liddy, D Berto, T Cullinane, J Cusack, G Hill					
Goalkickers						
Wanderers	K McKeown 4, K Wanganeen, P Cubillo, P Stennett, P Nikoletos 2 each, P Filler, R Stansborough 1 each					
St Marys	D Turner, D Cusack 3 each, C Rioli, J Long, B Allen, P Burgoyne, M Graham, T Cullinane 1 each					

History of the NTFL

1983/84	St Marys	defeated	Darwin			
B	B Ainslie	D Berto	H Corrie	B Hoffman	J Paterson	G Johnston
HB	B Long	M Athanasiou	J Cusack	D Bonson (c)	G Angeles	G Castillon
C	T Liddy (c)	R McPhee	N Long	P Seden	Joe Ahmatt	K Caton
HF	B Vigona	C Dunn	M Graham	R Anderson	T Thorne	Rob Cooper
F	C Rioli	B Houlson	M Berto	D Postal	J Boti	T Lawler
R&R	T Cullinane	T Cahill	J Long	G Kenny	R Hampton	W Briston
Inter	A Cubillo	M Roe		D Lewfatt	G Bruce	
Coach	J Taylor			I Smith		
St Marys	4.4	5.9	6.10	13.11 (89)		
Darwin	1.5	6.6	9.11	11.11 (77)		

Best Players

St Marys	T Liddy, N Long, B Vigona, C Rioli, R McPhee
Darwin	G Kenny, T Thorne, T Lawler, R Hampton, Rob Cooper
Goalkickers	
St Marys	C Dunn 4, J Long 3, C Rioli 2, B Vigona, B Ainslie, B Houlson, M Berto 1 each
Darwin	T Thorne 4, Rob Cooper 2, R Anderson, D Lewfatt, J Ahmatt, T Lawler, P Seden 1 each

1984/85	St Marys	defeated	Wanderers			
B	B Christensen	D Berto	W Smith	J Jeffrey	D Muller	J Kelly
HB	T Liddy (c)	M Athanasiou	B Long	G Nikoletos	D Oliver	M Wattam
C	A Cubillo	D Christensen	N Long	E Cubillo	G Wanganeen	D Russell
HF	D Weetra	C Dunn	S Long	R Stansborough	D Cusack	B Beaumont
F	J Long	D Dunn	H McPhee	P Cubillo	T Thorne	D Kelly
R&R	S Thomson	R McPhee	M Housley	D Millar	R Leskovec	KWanganeen (c)
Inter	K Hill	T Vigona		R Cadell	T Bass	
Coach	J Taylor			S Abala		
St Marys	3.4	7.7	12.11	13.20(98)		
Wanderers	2.1	6.5	8.6	13.7(85)		

Best Players

St Marys	D Christensen, B Long, S Thomson, M Housley, D Berto
Wanderers	K Wanganeen, J Jeffrey, P Cubillo, R Loskovec, D Oliver
Goalkickers	
St Marys	D Dunn 5, H McPhee 2, T Vigona, S Long, M Housley, D Christensen, C Dunn, D Weetra 1 each
Wanderers	T Thorne 4, D Kelly 3, D Cusack 2, J Jeffrey, R Cadell, R Stansborough, K Wanganeen 1 each

1985/86	St Marys	defeated	Nightcliff			
B	B Christensen	D Berto	G Ryan	T Dragan	C Porter	G Kane
HB	T Liddy (c)	M Athanasiou	R McPhee	G Lindner	P McGann	Mo Motlop
C	C Rioli	D Christensen	N Long	J Rioli	Mark Motlop (c)	D Amess
HF	M Graham	C Dunn	S Lunn	Rob Cooper	C Williams	P Motlop
F	G Packham	D Dunn	H McPhee	N Luff	S Wuttiki	R Waddell
R&R	M Murray	B Long	J Long	L Hayes	D Grant	D Peris
Inter	D Weetra	K Hill		D Croker	P Grant	
Coach	J Taylor			C Suradi		
St Marys	10.4	17.7	24.12	32.19(211)		
Nightcliff	1.2	1.3	4.7	4.9(33)		
Best Players						
St Marys	D Dunn, J Long, N Long, M Graham, D Berto					
Nightcliff	C Williams, G Kane, Mo Motlop, R Waddell					
Goalkickers						
St Marys	D Dunn 9, M Graham 6, D Weetra 4, J Long, K Hill 3 ca, H McPhee, B Long 2 each, N Long, C Dunn, S Lunn 1 each					
Nightcliff	Mark Motlop 2, N Loft, R Cooper 1 each					

1986/87	St Marys	defeated	Darwin			
B	B Christensen	B Ahmatt	O Taylor	J Paterson (c)	O Bruce	C Ford
HB	B Long	M Athanasiou	D Weetra	D Daby	D Atkinson	S Liddell
C	T Liddy (c)	D Berto	N Long	K Reid	N Wills	S Briston
HF	C Long	C Dunn	H Muir	M Graham	T Brown	K Quail
F	C Rioli	D Dunn	S Long	S Stokes	R Mills	P Reid
R&R	P Rea	R McPhee	J Long	G Adams	A May	W Briston
Inter	K Hill	M Long		M Williams	A Grills	
Coach	J Taylor			I Smith		
St Marys	6.2	12.8	18.12	26.14(170)		
Darwin	1.0	3.3	3.5	7.7(49)		
Best Players						
St Marys	N Long, D Dunn, H Muir, P Rea, S Long					
Darwin	D Daby, G Adams, S Briston, P Reid, R Mills					
Goalkickers						
St Marys	D Dunn, S Long 7 each, C Long 5, H Muir 3, D Berto, R McPhee, T Liddy, N Long 1 each					
Darwin	R Mills 4, K Quail, W Briston, M Williams 1 each					
1987/88	St Marys	defeated	Darwin			
B	B Christensen	D Berto	S Hardy	G Woodroffe	M Williams	T Lawler
HB	R McPhee	M Athanasiou	D Weetra	S Stokes	D Atkinson	G Bruce
C	N Long	B Long	T Liddy (c)	P May	D Ross	P Reid
HF	T Vigona	C Dunn	C Long	K Quail	C Carmichael	B Vigona
F	C Rioli	D Dunn	L White	K Reid	R Anderson	D Daby
R&R	R Cassetti	M Long	J Long	G Adams	R Wills	W Briston (c)
Inter	W Rogers	W Rioli		S Briston	J Kreuger	
Coach	J Taylor			I Smith		
St Marys	5.4	12.8		16.10	19.15(129)	
Darwin	6.3	7.4		9.6	10.8(68)	
Best Players						
St Marys	R Cassetti, N Long, M Long, C Rioli, D Berto					
Darwin	D Ross, T Lawler, W Briston, G Bruce, O Adams					
Goalkickers						
St Marys	D Dunn 8, T Vigona, C Rioli 3 each, C Dunn, W Rioli 2 each, C Long 1					
Darwin	C Carmichael, W Briston, R Anderson 2 each, K Quail, K Reid, D Daby 1 each					
1988/89	Darwin	defeated	Wanderers			
B	J Paterson	G Bruce	C Ford	R Cubillo	N Davis	D Russell
HB	S Hedge	D Atkinson	M Williams	D Totham (c)	J Kelly	C Thomas
C	S Stokes	D Ross	P May	P Rout	P Cubillo	E Cubillo
HF	S Briston	K Quail	F Maguire	G Wanganeen	P Filler	M Waiters
F	T Lawler	J Sing	R Anderson	K Wanganeen	M Pettit	D Millar
R&R	G Adams	G Hampton	W Briston (c)	S Grimmer	L Baroni	R Chapman
Inter	A Grills	A Browne		P Stennett	D Muller	
Coach	I Smith			P Stennett		
Darwin	4.2	7.4	11.7	12.8(80)		
Wanderers	2.1	6.2	8.4	10.6(66)		
Best Players						
Darwin	F Maguire, G Adams, K Quail, G Bruce, J Sing					
Wanderers	L Baroni, S Grimmer, M Pettit, P Rout, R Cubillo					
Goalkickers						
Darwin	K Quail, J Sing 3 each, S Briston 2, A Grills, R Anderson, T Lawler, P May 1 each					
Wanderers	M Pettit 4, M Waiters 2, G Wanganeen, L Baroni, P Filler, J Kelly 1 each					

History of the NTFL

1989/90	St Marys	defeated		Darwin		
B	T Liddy	D Berto	S Pontes	D Daby	D Atkinson	K Reid
HB	S Hardy	M Athanasiou	D Weetra	G Chisholm	G Bruce	I Kerin
C	P Long	B Long (c)	N Long	P May	D Ross	P Reid
HF	T Vigona	D Grundy	S Long	S Hayes	K Quail	J Sing
F	C Rioli	D Dunn	C Long	S Stokes	M Williams	C Dalton
R&R	G Hodgson	B Stanislaus	J Long	J Jones	T Lawler	W Briston (e)
Inter	K Hill	D Hale		S Briston	J Krueger	
Coach	J Taylor			I Smith		
St Marys		10.6	13.12	22.14	28.15(183)	
Darwin		2.2	6.5	8.9	10.15(75)	
Best Players						
St Marys	C Long, N Long, B Long, B Stanislaus. T Vigona					
Darwin	J Jones, P Reid, S Hayes, D Ross					
Goalkickers						
St Marys	C Long 11, T Vigona 5, N Long, B Stanislaus 4 each, D Dunn 3, K Hill 1					
Darwin	S Hayes, T Lawler, K Quail, P Reid 2 each, J Sing, W Briston 1 each					
1990/91	St Marys	defeated		Darwin		
B	T Liddy	D Berto	S Ponter	C Ford	D Atkinson (c)	N Wills
HB	S Hardy	M Athanasiou	D Weetra	I Kerin	S Hedge	D Daby
C	N Long	B Long (c)	P Long	P May	M Ahmat	P Reid
HF	T Vigona	D Dunn	T Weetra	Steven Hayes	G Bruce	K Quail
F	J Long	J Sampson	C Long	C Ross	M Williams	J Sing
R&R	G Weetra	A Perry	C Rioli	D White	Shane Hayes	W Briston
Inter	A Come	W McLennan		S Stokes	R Wills	
Coach	J Taylor			I Smith		
St Marys		3.3	8.6	16.8	22.13(145)	
Darwin		4.0	10.2	11.3	14.8(92)	
Best Players						
St Marys	D Dunn, M Athnnasiou, N Long, C Rioli, G Weetra					
Darwin	M Ahmat, P May, D White, S Stokes, S Hedge					
Goalkickers						
St Marys	C Long 5, D Dunn 4, J Sampson, T Vigona, C Rioli, N Long 2 each, D Berto, M Athanasiou, G Weetra, A Corrie 1					
Darwin	Steven Hayes 5, C Ross 3, J Sing 2, P Reid, I Kerin, M Ahmat, Shane Hayes 1 each					
1991/92	St Marys	defeated		Darwin		
B	A Henry	T Spearman	S Ponter	D Daby	D Atkinson (c)	W Ritchie
HB	D Hale	M Athanasiou	(c) S Chisholm	S Hedge	G Bruce	I Kerin
C	N Long	B Long	T Weetra	P Reid	N Senge	J Sing
HF	D Dunn	N Richardson	B Dobson	K Quail	D Bonson	P May
F	W McLennan	G Weetra	B Stanislaus	K Reid	A McAdam	Steven Hayes
R&R	T Schatz	A Perry	C Rioli	J Jones	M Williams	S Stokes
Inter	A Come	V Dunn		Shane Hayes	M McGregor	
Coach	J Taylor			D Bonson		
St Marys		4.3	6.4	11.5	15.7(97)	
Darwin		0.3	5.5	6.9	9.12(66)	
Best Players						
St Marys	T Spearman, N Long, M Athanasiou, S Chisholm, A Perry					
Darwin	D Atkinson, S Stokes, P Reid, G Bruce, Steven Hayes					
Goalkickers						
St Marys	B Stanislaus 5, G Weetra 4, D Dunn 3, C Rioli, T Schatz, V Dunn 1 each					
Darwin	A McAdam 4, K Quail 2, P May, M Williams, Shane Hayes 1					

1992/93	Wanderers	defeated		St Marys		
B	S Sharkey	B Mawson	R Jeffrey (c)	T Liddy	D Berto	S Ponter
HB	T Wynd	M Gibson	C Huxtable	S Chisholm	D Stratton	D Hale
C	R Guit	A Viola	A Cooper	N Long	A Perry	T Weetra
HF	B Jukawics	R Smith	G Dhurrkay	B Stanislaus	G Weetra	W McLennon
F	T Angel	S Cusack	G Davidson	A Corrie	T Vigona	T Karpany
R&R	D Taylor	L Painter	R Lewis	P Rea	M Athanasiou (c)	C Rioli
Inter	M West	M Totham		A Henry	V Dunn	
Coach	B Hood			J Taylor		
Wanderers	1.2	6.3	8.7	16.9(105)		
St Marys	5.1	6.2	7.4	8.6(54)		
Best Players						
Wanderers	R Jeffrey, A Viola, B Jukawies, D Taylor. L Painter					
St Marys	S Chisholm, C Rioli, T Weetra					
Goalkickers						
Wanderers	D Taylor 5, G Davidson 4, G Dhurrkay, S Cusack, A Viola, L Painter, R Smith, C Huxtable, M Gibson 1 each					
St Marys	A Corrie, G Weetra 2 each, C Rioli, V Dunn, N Long, B Stanislaus 1 each					
1993/94	St Marys	defeated Darwin				
B	T Liddy	G Scott	S Ponter	M Rotumah	D Atkinson (c)	P May
HB	C Rioli	M Athanasiou (c)	S Chisholm	J McLeod	B Harris	S Hedge
C	T Weetra	M Christensen	N Long	R Ah Mat	A McLeod	P Stokes
HF	A Perry	C Waterhouse	W McLennan	A Moore	K Quail	Shane Hayes
F	B Stanislaus	D Dunn	D Breed	Joe Ah Mat	J Sing	Steven Hayes
R&R	K Howe	J Lidgerwood	D Perry	J Jones	M West	C Wall
Inter	P Rea	P Long	V Dunn	J A Ahmat	E Kitching	A Saundry
Coach	J Taylor			B Martin		
St Marys	3.2		12.5	18.6	26.8(164)	
Darwin	1.3		1.3	5.5	7.7(49)	
Best Players						
St Marys	A Perry, C Rioli, M Athanasiou, D Perry, J Lidgerwood					
Darwin	A McLeod, P May, B Harris, R Ah Mat, C Wall					
Goalkickers						
St Marys	D Dunn 7, D Breed 5, V Dunn 3, B Stanislaus, T Weetra, A Perry 2 ea, C Rioli, D Perry, C Waterhouse, G Scott. M Christensen 1 each					
Darwin	M Rotumah 2, John Ah Mat, A Moore, Shane Hayes, J Jones, J Sing I each					
1994/95	St Marys	defeated		Darwin		
B	J Kerr	S Ponter	A Corrie	C Kurnoth	D Atkinson	S McGregor
HB	D Hale	M Athanasiou (c)	A Moscheni	B Watson	D Parfitt	P Reid
C	N Long	M Christensen	T Weetra	K Quail	A Castro	S Stokes (c)
HF	A Perry	R Brodhurst	B Stanislaus	M Williams	G Miller	J Frank
F	T Trimble	D Dunn	C Rioli	Steven Hayes	J Amol	C Williams
R&R	S Carey	J Lidgerwood	D Perry	J Jones	J Watson	M West
Inter	M Vigona	W McLennan	P Long	T Reid	G Frank	P May
Coach	J Taylor			B Martin		
St Marys	2.3	6.7	11.9	21.13(139)		
Darwin	1.3	4.4	5.5	6.6(42)		
Best Players						
St Marys	N Long, C Rioli, M Athanasiou, B Stanislaus, A Moscheni, J Lidgerwood					
Darwin	S Stokes, M West. M Williams, C Williams, J Watson					
Goalkickers						
St Marys	B Stanislaus 6, N Long 3, C Rioli, D Dunn, M Vigona 2 ea, A Perry, J Lidgerwood, S Carey, M Christensen, R Brodharst. M Athanasiou 1 ea					
Darwin	M Williams 3, P May, C Kurnoth, P Reid 1 ea					

History of the NTFL

CHANNEY, CLARK AND HARITOS MEDAL WINNERS**Chaney Medal**

Named after Sir Fred Chaney who was the Administrator of the Northern Territory and Patron of the NTFL in the 1960s. The medal was first awarded in 1970/71 to the Best on Ground in the League Grand Final. Award winners from 1970/71 to 1994/95 are as follows:

1970/71	Reuben Cooper (Darwin)	1984/85	Damien Christensen (St Marys)
1971/72	Stewie Jeffrey (St Marys)	1985/86	Dennis Dunn (St Marys)
1972/73	John Tye (Darwin)	1986/87	Steven Long (St Marys)
1973/74	John Tye (Nightcliff)	1987/88	Roy Cassetti (St Marys)
1974/75	Competition suspended	1988/89	David Ross (Darwin)
1975/76	Ron Quail (Darwin)	1989/90	Noel Long (St Marys)
1976/77	Darryl Bakes (Waratahs)	1990/91	Cyril Rioli (St Marys)
1977/78	Benny Vigona (St Marys)	1991/92	Todd Spearman (St Marys)
1978/79	Michael Graham (St Marys)	1992/93	Russell Jeffrey (Wanderers)
1979/80	Tom Thome (Darwin)	1993/94	Aaron Perry (St Marys)
1980/81	Peter Belford (North Darwin)	1994/95	Noel Long (St Marys)
1981/82	Les Myles (St Marys)	1995/96	Noel Long (St Marys)
			Graham Taylor (Sthn Dist)
1982/83	Terry Neville (Wanderers)	1996/97	Jock McLeod (St Marys)
1983/84	Gerry Kenny (Darwin)	1997/98	Gerard Atkins (Sthn Dist)
		1998/99	Frank Matthews (Waratahs)
		1999/00	Matthew Whelan (Waratahs)
		2000/01	Brian Ross (Darwin)
			Dion Grant (Palm Magpies)
		2001/02	

Some interesting observations from the above list:

St Marys players have won 15 of the 28 medals awarded since its inception.

- * John Tye won back to back medals with two different clubs.
- * Two of the Long brothers (Steven and Noel) from St Marys, and two Jeffrey brothers (Stewie with St Marys and Russell with Wanderers) have won the medal. Noel Long has won the Medal three times.

Clark Medal

Named after Stewie Clark, a long time official and supporter of the Nightcliff Football Club. Stewie's sons Kelvin and Bryan were former Nightcliff footballers. Bryan is a prominent sports bookmaker. The medal is awarded to the Best on Ground in the Reserves Grand Final and Award winners from 1984/85 to 1994/95 are as follows:

1984/85	Willy Hammer (Wanderers)	1992/93	Anthony Hoban (Waratahs)
1985/86	Terry Booth (Katherine)	1993/94	Dusty Millar (Wanderers)
1986/87	Brentley Hughes (Katherine)	1994/95	Mark Hilderbrant (St Marys)
1987/88	Gary Menzel (St Marys)	1995/96	Joe Sara (St Marys)
1988/89	Rick Robinson (Nightcliff)	1996/97	Nick Stevens (Waratahs)
1989/90	Robert Cooper (Nightcliff)	1997/98	Matt Burry (Waratahs)
1990/91	Andrew Miller (Waratahs)	1998/99	Matt Cunningham (Waratahs)
1991/92	John Long (St Marys)	1999/00	Matthew Wakelin (Waratahs)
		2000/01	Brian Ross (Darwin)
			Dion Grant (St Marys)
		2001/02	

Haritos Medal

Named after Jack Haritos, a long time Territorian, former Wanderers player and a Life Member of the NTFL. The Medal is awarded to the Best on Ground in the Under 18 Grand Final and Award winners from 1989/90 to 1994/95 are as follows:

1989/90	Nathan Buckley (Southern Districts)	1995/96	M Dhamarandji (Wanderers)
1990/91	Victor Dunn (St Marys)	1996/97	Corey Ahchee (Darwin)
1991/92	Wayne Allard (Nightcliff)	1997/98	Ezra Bray (St Marys)
1992/93	Steven Bailey (St Marys)	1998/99	Xavier Clarke (St Marys)
1993/94	Shaun Kerinaia (Waratahs)		Sam Jenner (St Marys)
1994/95	Anthony Vallejo (St Marys)	1999/00	Aaron Davey (Palm Magpies)
		2000/01	Xavier Clarke (St Marys)
		2001/02	

Russell Jeffrey Medal

1995/96	Nathan Grant (Nightcliff)	1998/99	Trent Hentschel (Magpies)
1996/97	Ezra Bray (St Marys)	1999/00	Reggie Tipungwuti (St Marys)
1997/98	Leon Bonson (Katherine)	2000/01	
		2001/02	

History of the NTFL

NTFL PATRONS

The position of Patron of the NTFL is normally accepted by the Administrator of the Northern Territory, however, records are not available to confirm earlier years.

YEAR	ADMINISTRATOR	YEAR	ADMINISTRATOR
1919	Henry Ernest CAREY	1961	Roger Bede NOTT
1921	Frederic Charles URQUHART	1964	Roger Livinge DEAN
1927	Robert Hunter WEDDELL	1970	Frederick Charles CHANEY
1929	Victor George CARRINGTON	1973	John Norman NELSON
1927	John Charles CAWOOD	1976	John Armstrong ENGLAND
1931	Robert Hunter WEDDELL	1981	Eric Eugene JOHNSTON
1937	Charles Lydiard Aubrey ABBOTT	1989	James Henry MUIRHEAD
1946	Arthur Robert DRIVER	1993	Keith John Austin ASCHE
1951	Frank Joseph Scott WISE	1997	Dr N Conn A.O
1956	James Clarence ARCHER	2000/01	J Anictomatis
		2001/02	J Anictomatis

NTFL COCA COLA CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The NTFL Club Championship was first originated in the 1959/60 season when it was known as the Kilpatrick Shield. Points are awarded for teams in each Grade at 10 points for each League win, 6 for Reserves, 4 for U18s and 2 for U16s.

In 1972/73, the Award was renamed the NTFL Club Championship with sponsorship provided by Coca Cola. The winning club receives \$1 000 and the Runner-up \$250.

Winners since 1959/60 are:

1959/60	Buffaloes	1977/78	St Marys
1960/61	St Marys	1978/79	St Marys
1961/62	Buffaloes	1979/80	Nightcliff
1962/63	Buffaloes	1980/81	North Darwin
1963/64	Darwin	1981/82	St Marys
1964/65	Darwin	1982/83	Wanderers
1965/66	St Marys	1983/84	Darwin
1966/67	Darwin	1984/85	St Marys
1967/68	Darwin	1985/86	St Marys
1968/69	Darwin	1986/87	St Marys
1969/70	Darwin	1987/88	St Marys
1970/71	Darwin	1988/89	St Marys
1971/72	St Marys	1989/90	St Marys
1972/73	Darwin	1990/91	St Marys
1973/74	Waratahs	1991/92	St Marys
1974/75	Competition suspended	1992/93	St Marys
1975/76	St Marys	1993/94	St Marys
	Darwin	1994/95	St Marys
1976/77	St Marys	1995/96	St Marys
		1996/97	St Marys
		1997/98	St Marys
		1998/99	St Marys
		1999/00	Waratahs
		2000/01	Palm Magpies
		2001/02	Palm Magpies

History of the NTFL

NTFL Leading Goalkickers (Note: from 1972/73 totals include Finals matches)

SEASON	PLAYER	TEAM	GOALS
1946/47 to 1951/52	No records available		
1952/53	Gilbert Clarke	Wanderers	53
1953/54	Joe Saturninus	St Marys	39
1954/55	John Mayo	Buffaloes	48
1955/56	Joe Saturninus	St Marys	67
1956/57	Bluey Sumner	Waratahs	33
1957/58	Bruce Potts	Wanderers	32
1958/59	Ned Cummings	Works & Housing	45
1959/60	Michael Ah Mat	Buffaloes	32
1960/61	Don White	Wanderers	41
1961/62	Terry Lew Fatt	St Marys	33
1962/63	Arthur Tye	Darwin	44
1963/64	Robert Garner	Darwin	41
1964/65	Gympie Lew Fatt	St Marys	29
1965/66	Billy Roe	St Marys	42
1966/67	Gerry Roe	St Marys	51
1967/68	Tom Muir	Darwin	54
1968/69	Alan Muir	Darwin	44
1969/70	Gerry Roe	St Marys	78
1970/71	Rueben Cooper	Darwin	46
1971/72	Eddie Clarke	Darwin	42
	Rupert Staines	Nightcliff	42
1972/73	Gerry Roe	St Marys	74
1973/74	Joe Daby	Nightcliff	64
1974/75	Competition suspended		
1975/76	Geoff Clarke	North Darwin	65
1976/77	Robbie Cooper	Darwin	48
1977/78	Jules Kerinaiaua	St Marys	50
	Peter Burgoyne	St Marys	50
1978/79	Martin White	Nightcliff	79
1979/80	Trevor Sutton	Nightcliff	103
1980/81	Peter Munro	North Darwin	93
1981/82	Doug Kelly	Wanderers	86
1982/83	Trevor Sutton	Nightcliff	99
1983/84	Peter Munro	North Darwin	77
1984/85	Dennis Dunn	St Marys	79
1985/86	Dennis Dunn	St Marys	128
1986/87	Dennis Dunn	St Marys	75
1987/88	Dennis Dunn	St Marys	110
1988/89	Allen Jakovich	Southern Districts	104
1989/90	Martin Pettit	Wanderers	63
1990/91	Mark Spence	Nightcliff	67
1991/92	Gabby Weetra	St Marys	66
1992/93	Allen Corrie	St Marys	74
1993/94	Brian Stanislaus	St Marys	70
1994/95	Brian Stanislaus	St Marys	70
1995/96	Matt Chilcott	Waratahs	104
1996/97	Gerard Atkins	Sthn Dist	67
1997/98	Brian Stanislaus		
1998/99	Gerard Atkins	Sthn Districts	66
1999/00	Danny Nolan	St Marys	63
2000/01	Trent Hentschel	Palm Magpies	69
2001/02	Peter Shepherd	Palm Magpies	

History of the NTFL

12 Goals or more scored in NTFL match since 1946/47

Goals	Player	Match	Season
24	Norm Hagen	Darwin v Nth Darwin	1972/73
20	Dennis Dunn	St Marys v Waratahs	1984/85
19	Tom Muir	Darwin v Wanderers	1967/68
17	Trevor Sutton	Nightcliff v Wanderers	1979/80
16	Gerry Roe	St Marys v Wanderers	1966/67
16	Allen Jakovich	Sthn Districts v Waratahs	1988/89
15	Dennis Dunn	St Marys v Nth Darwin	1985/86
15	Dennis Dunn	St Marys v Nth Darwin	1994/95
14	Alan Muir	Darwin v St Marys	1968/69
14	Gerry Roe	St Marys v Wanderers	1969/70
14	Reubin Cooper	Darwin v Wanderers	1970/71
14	Norm Hagen	Darwin v Nth Darwin	1972/73
14	Tom Thorne	Wanderers v Waratahs	1986/87
14	Dennis Dunn	St Marys v Nth Darwin	1990/91
14	Gerard Atkins	Sthn Districts v Wanderers	1995/96
14	Danny Nolan	St Marys v Wanderers	2001/02
13	Gerry Roe	St Marys v Nth Darwin	1972/73
13	Dennis Dunn	St Marys v Sthn Districts	1988/89
13	Dennis Dunn	St Marys v Waratahs	1988/89
13	Mark Spence	Nightcliff v Sthn Districts	1990/91
13	Allen Corrie	St Marys v Nightcliff	1992/93
13	Brian Stanislaus	St Marys v Nth Darwin	1993/94
13	Brian Stanislaus	St Marys v Nth Darwin	1995/96
12	Cyril Ah Mat	Buffaloes v Wanderers	1956/57
12	Jim Conway	Nightcliff v Wanderers	1969/70
12	Gerry Roe	St Marys v Nth Darwin	1972/73
12	Trevor Sutton	Nightcliff v St Marys	1979/80
12	Peter Munro	Nth Darwin v Nightcliff	1980/81
12	Dennis Dunn	St Marys v Darwin	1985/86
12	Dennis Dunn	St Marys v Nth Darwin	1987/88
12	Tom Lawler	Darwin v Katherine	1987/88
12	Michael Pollock	Wanderers v Katherine	1987/88
12	Lorenzo Kerinaia	Nth Darwin v Waratahs	1988/89
12	Dennis Dunn	St Marys v Wanderers	1988/89
12	Chris Long	St Marys v Nth Darwin	1990/91
12	Matt Chilcott	Waratahs v Nth Darwin	1995/96

History of the NTFL

Grand Final Results - Reserves - Under 18 ~ Under 16 - Under 14 Grades

Reserves - Competition started 1953/54

1953/54	Waratahs 3.12 d St Marys 3.6	1984/85	St Marys 15.8 d Wanderers 14.8
1954/55	Waratahs 10.12 d St Marys 2.5		Winning Coach P Burgoyne
1955/56	Waratahs 7.8 d St Marys 2.7	1985/86	Katherine 15.10 d Wand 11.8
1956/57	Buffaloes 7.9 d Wanderers 3.3		Winning Coach T Germein
1957/58	Buffaloes 8.6 d St Marys 6.7	1986/87	Katherine 15.11 d Wanderers 7.9
1958/59	St Marys 7.9 d Buffaloes 3.1		Winning Coach T Germein
1959/60	St Marys 10.8 d Buffaloes 1.1	1987/88	St Marys 23.13 d Nth Darwin 10.5
1960/61	St Marys 10.4 d Waratahs 4.4		Winning Coach J McCormick
1961/62	St Marys 8.10 d Buffaloes 8.6	1988/89	Nightcliff 10.6 d St Marys 5.11
1962/63	Darwin 9.6 d St Marys 5.9		Winning Coach D Bonson
1963/64	St Marys 5.11 d Darwin 4.5	1989/90	Nightcliff 12.8 d St Marys 7.9
1964/65	Darwin 10.5 d Waratahs 7.11		Winning Coach E Motlop
1965/66	St Marys 8.9 d Darwin 8.4	1990/91	Waratahs 12.7 d Nightcliff 8.11
1966/67	Darwin 10.10 d St Marys 6.8		Winning Coach G Smart
1967/68	Darwin 6.16 d Waratahs 3.5	1991/92	St Marys 11.7 d Waratahs 9.6
1968/69	Waratahs 10.13 d Darwin 5.3		Winning Coach R Cooper
1969/70	Waratahs 7.12 d St Marys 6.10	1992/93	Waratahs 17.6 d Nightcliff 6.10
1970/71	Darwin 11.7 d Waratahs 6.11		Winning Coach B Quail
1971/72	Waratahs 8.9 d St Marys 1.7	1993/94	Wanderers 12.9 d St Marys 5.11
1972/73	Nightcliff 7.7 d Wanderers 4.10		Winning Coach D Totham
	Winning Coach-D Kimber	1994/95	St Marys 17.9 d Darwin 8.7
1973/74	Nightcliff 1.11 d Waratahs 7.11		Winning Coach R Cooper
	Winning Coach-B Mitchell	1995/96	St Marys - Waratahs
1974/75	Competition suspended-Cyclone		Winning Coach F Adams
1975/76	Nightcliff 10.11 d Darwin 9.6	1996/97	St Marys 8.12 d Waratahs 5.5
	Winning Coach-T Jackson		Winning Coach F Adams
1976/77	Nightcliff 7.11 d Waratahs 4.8	1997/98	Waratahs 11.8 d St Marys 9.7
	Winning Coach-C Suradi		Winning Coach P Carroll
1977/78	Darwin 16.13 d Nightcliff 4.7	1998/99	Waratahs 10.10 d St Marys 9.8
	Winning Coach-S Abala		Winning Coach P Carroll
1978/79	St Marys 7.9 d Nth Darwin 7.8	1999/00	Waratahs 14.9 d St Marys 6.8
	Winning Coach-G Lew Fatt		Winning Coach P Carroll
1979/80	Nth Darwin 10.9 d Nightcliff 7.11	2000/01	Palm Magpies 15.2 d St Marys 6.12
	Winning Coach R Bail		Winning Coach Steve Jones
1980/81	Nightcliff 9.15 d Darwin 9.10	2001/02	Nightcliff-Palm Magpies
	Winning Coach C Suradi		Winning Coach Joel McLennan
1981/82	Wanderers 9.12 d Nth Darwin 9.6		
	Winning Coach R Cooper		
1982/83	St Marys 22.14 d Nth Darwin 5.3		
	Winning Coach B Deslandes		
1983/84	Nth Darwin 12.10 d Waratahs 8.5		
	Winning Coach K Lehman		

History of the NTFL

Grand Final Results - Under 18 (Competition started 1956/57)

1956/57	Works/Hous 8.5 d St Marys 2.2		Winning Coach B Haines
1957/58	Works/Hous 9.8 d Buffaloes 2.3	1985/86	Darwin 13.16 d Wanderers 11.6
1958/59	Works/Hous 8.7 d Buffaloes 2.1		Winning Coach D Bonson
1959/60	Works/Hous 6.4 d Buffaloes 2.3	1986/87	St Marys 9.15 d Nightcliff 9.13
1960/61	Buffaloes 6.1 d Waratahs 3.4		Winning Coach K Butler
1961/62	Buffaloes 7.16 d Wanderers 5.5	1987/88	Darwin 12.11 d St Marys 10.6
1962/63	Darwin 8.8 d Wanderers 4.7		Winning Coach D Bonson
1963/64	Darwin 3.7 d Waratahs 1.1	1988/89	Darwin 12.11 d St Marys 10.9
1964/65	Darwin 6.13 d Waratahs 2.5		Winning Coach G Angeles
1965/66	Darwin 11.3 d St Marys 4.10	1989/90	Sthn Districts 23.4 d Darwin 10.6
1966/67	Darwin 16.15 d Waratahs 2.0		Winning Coach N Day
1967/68	Nightcliff 5.4 d St Marys 2.4	1990/91	St Marys 13.15 d Wanderers 8.9
1968/69	Darwin 8.11 d St Marys 4.7		Winning Coach R McPhee
1969/70	Wanderers 8.9 d Waratahs 6.3	1991/92	Nightcliff 14.13 d Sthn Dist 8.4
1970/71	Wanderers 7.9 d St Marys 5.3		Winning Coach G Adams
1971/72	Wanderers 11.2 d St Marys 5.5	1992/93	Darwin 12.14 d St Marys 7.9
1972/73	Darwin 6.8 d Waratahs 3.5		Winning Coach N Hagen
1973/74	Waratahs 10.5 d St Marys 6.6	1993/94	Waratahs 10.11 d Nightcliff 10.9
1974/75	Competition suspended-Cyclone		Winning Coach I Oxford
1975/76	Darwin 9.3 d St Marys 7.6	1994/95	St Marys 11.10 d Waratahs 7.9
	Winning Coach D Stokes		Winning Coach M Christensen
1976/77	St Marys 10.6 d Nightcliff 5.6	1995/96	Wanderers 9.10 d Sthn Dist 8.7
	Winning Coach P Atkinson		Winning Coach R.McCoy
1977/78	St Marys 11.5 d Darwin 2.2	1996/97	Darwin 12.6 d Wanderers 6.7
	Winning Coach P Atkinson		Winning Coach N Hagen
1978/79	St Marys 14.13 d Darwin 8.3	1997/98	St Marys 10.9 d Nightcliff 7.8
	Winning Coach P Atkinson		Winning Coach Z Job
1979/80	St Marys 12.7 d Nightcliff 4.6	1998/99	St Marys 11.11 d Nightcliff 8.3
	Winning Coach P Atkinson		Winning Coach Z Job
1980/81	St Marys 13.7 d Darwin 12.4	1999/00	Palm Magpies 17.9 d Wanderers 5.4
	Winning Coach F Tee		Winning Coach A Perrin
1981/82	St Marys 10.7 d Darwin 6.8	2000/01	St Marys 19.7 d Nightcliff 4.6
	Winning Coach B Deslandes		Winning Coach Mark Palmer
1982/83	Darwin 12.11 d Wanderers 4.6	2001/02	St Marys-Nightcliff
	Winning Coach G Johnstone		Winning Coach Chris Gundersen
1983/84	St Marys 13.11 d Darwin 11.9		
	Winning Coach P Burgoyne		
1984/85	St Marys 13.8 d Wanderers 12.12		

History of the NTFL

Under 16 - Competition started 1976/77

1976/77	St Marys 10.14 d Nightcliff 2.1 Winning Coach S Leigh	1989/90	Darwin 9.12 d St Marys 6.5 Winning Coach W Rotumah
1977/78	St Marys 7.4 d Nth Darwin 4.7 Winning Coach S Leigh	1990/91	Darwin 13.5 d Nth Darwin 1.5 Winning Coach M Young
1978/79	St Marys 15.8 d Wanderers 5.4 Winning Coach P Atkinson	1991/92	Darwin 13.5 d St Marys Winning Coach M Young
1979/80	St Maws 5.12 d Darwin 3.7 Winning Coach B Deslandes	1992/93	Darwin 12.6 d Wanderers 5.11 Winning Coach G Buffer
1980/81	St Marys 9.5 d Wanderers 6.5 Winning Coach B Deslandes	1993/94	Nth Darwin 12.7 d Sthn Dist 6.11 Winning Coach J McLennon
1981/82	St Marys 8.8 d Wanderers 4.7 Winning Coach R Totham	1994/95	Wanderers 11.8 d Darwin 5.9 Winning Coach R McCoy
1982/83	Darwin 10.11 d Wanderers 2.3 Winning Coach N Hagen	1995/96	Nightcliff 8.6 d Darwin 1.4 Winning Coach C Bonney
1983/84	St Marys 12.7 d Nth Darwin 5.6 Winning Coach P Atkinson	1996/97	St Marys 11.8 d Nightcliff 5.7 Winning Coach R McPhee
1984/85	St Marys 14.8 d Wanderers 7.11 Winning Coach P Atkinson	1997/98	Katherine 14.14 d Magpies 1.2 Winning Coach M Berto
1985/86	St Marys 10.6 d Sthn Dist 6.7 Winning Coach D Christensen	1998/99	Palm Magpies 15.3 d Katherine 8.5 Winning Coach
1986/87	St Marys 19.3 d Darwin 3.4 Winning Coach B Campbell	1999/00	St Marys 7.7 d Waratahs 7.5 Winning Coach J Lidgerwood
1987/88	St Marys 7.8 d Nightcliff 5.5 Winning Coach B Campbell	2000/01	St Marys d Sthn Districts Winning Coach
1988/89	Sthn Districts 8.7 d Nightcliff 8.5 Winning Coach N Stevens	2001/02	

Under 14 - Competition started 1978/79

Premiers and Coach

1978/79	St Marys	R Hope	1990/91	Darwin	L Mitchell
1979/80	St Marys	T Lew Fatt	1991/92	Nth Darwin	J McLennon
1980/81	Wanderers	P Leverance	1992/93	Darwin	S Ah Mat
1981/82	Darwin	N Hagen	1993/94	Darwin	S Ah Mat
1982/83	St Marys	B Richards	1994/95	St Marys	M Hyde
1983/84	Darwin	K Buffer	1995/96	St Marys	M Hyde
1984/85	Darwin	S Stokes	1996/97	Wanderers	G Wanganeen
1985/86	St Marys	C Wilken	1997/98	Palm Magpies	W Toy
1986/87	Nightcliff	T Chambers	1998/99	St Marys	M Palmer
1987/88	St Marys	G West	1999/00	Sthn Districts	S Smith
1988/89	St Marys	D Grundy	2000/01	St Marys	J McCormick
1989/90	Darwin	L Stott	2001/02	Waratahs	P Baldock
1990/91	Darwin	L Mitchell			

History of the NTFL

JUNIOR MEDALLISTS

Mitch Lee Medal - Reserve Grade Best & Fairest

The Reserve Grade Best & Fairest award was named after Mitch Lee in recognition of his services to the NTFL. Mitch Lee coached St Marys from 1957/58 to 1960/61 and Waratahs from 1964/65 to 1965/66. He served as NTFL Treasurer for a number of seasons and was awarded NTFL Life Membership in 1963. Mitch Lee died in 1967.

Abala Medal - Under 18 Best & Fairest

The Under 18 Best & Fairest award was named in memory of the late Steve Abala Sr who died in February 1956 as a result of injuries received in a rugby league match. Steve was a wellknown Darwin footballer who captained the 'Buffaloes' League team from 1950/51 to 1952/53. Steve Abala won the Nichols Medal in 1950/51 and was highly regarded as a true 'gentleman' footballer.

Hickman Medal - Under 16 Best & Fairest

The Under 16 Best & Fairest award was named after prominent Darwin businessman John Hickman who was a strong supporter and sponsor of the NTFL in the 1960's and 1970's.

Gundersen Medal - Under 14 Best & Fairest

The Under 14 Best & Fairest award was named after Ted Gundersen who has served the NTFL on many Committees including a short stint as League Secretary. Ted played football for Waratahs in the late 1940's and represented Darwin against Alice Springs in 1948. Ted was awarded NTFL Life Membership in 1974.

Gympy Lew Fatt is the only player to win a Nichols, Mitch Lee and Abala Medal.

Mitch Lee Medallist-Reserve Grade Best & Fairest

1953/54	Wilfred	Wanderers	1980/81	W Raye	Nth Darwin
1954/55	H Muir	Works & Hous	1981/82	H Hegarty	Nth Darwin
1955/56	B Paynter	Waratahs	1982/83	M Soulsby	Nightcliff
1956/57	H Woodie	Wanderers	1983/84	G Lew Fatt	St Marys
1957/58	W Lane	Buffaloes	1984/85	R Edmonds	Wanderers
1958/59	L Pon	Works & Hous	1985/86	G Zerna	Katherine
1959/60	H Phillip	Wanderers	1986/87	B Hughes	Katherine
1960/61	Sebastian	St Marys	1987/88	D White	Wanderers
1961/62	W Cammaford	Waratahs	1988/89	D White	Wanderers
1962/63			1989/90	A Manicaros	Sthn Districts
1963/64	J Scrubby	Wanderers	1990/91	J Secrett	Sthn Dist
1964/65	J Lynas	Waratahs	1991/92	T Angel	Wanderers
1965/66	H Bauer	Darwin	1992/93	A Saundry	Darwin
1966/67	J Angeles	Darwin	1993/94	C Minchin	Wanderers
1967/68	K Robinson	Darwin	1994/95	P Carroll	Waratahs
1968/69	P Quail	Darwin	1995/96	R Oakley	Waratahs
1969/70	T Berry	St Marys	1996/97	Jahmal Butler	St Marys
1970/71	R Dirdi	Wanderers		Ian Kerin	Darwin
1971/72	G Burke	Wanderers	1997/98	L Clayton	Waratahs
1972/73	R Tilley	Nightcliff		Peter Seal	Waratahs
1973/74	G Adams	Nightcliff	1998/99	L Lenehan	Waratahs
1974/75	Competition suspended-Cyclone		1999/00	N Stevens	Waratahs
1975/76	G Burke	St Marys	2000/01	Mark West	St Marys
1976/77	T Ware	Wanderers	2001/02	Alby Ammerlaan	St Marys
1977/78	G Lew Fatt	St Marys			
1978/79	B Martin	Nightcliff			
1979/80	G Lew Fatt	St Marys			

History of the NTFL

Abala Medallists -Under 18 Best & Fairest

1956/57	K Lew Fatt	Works & Hous	1980/81	W Briston	Darwin
1957/58	G Chin	Works & Hous	1981/82	L Brand	Waratahs
1958/59	T Allen	Waratahs	1982/83	M Schubert	Nightcliff
1959/60	G Putti	Wanderers	1983/84	D Daby	Darwin
1960/61	G Lew Fatt	St Marys	1984/85	P Banjo	Darwin
1961/62	B Putti	Wanderers	1985/86	P Reid	Darwin
1962/63	R Crosby	Waratahs	1986/87	P Halvorson	Nightcliff
1963/64	M Poulter	Waratahs	1987/88	B Kruse	St Marys
1964/65	A Muir	Darwin	1988/89	S Forrester	Nightcliff
1965/66	A Muir	Darwin	1989/90	W McLennan	St Marys
1966/67	W Nickels	Waratahs	1990/91	B Niki	Wanderers
1967/68	H Furber	Darwin	1991/92	R Keelan	Nightcliff
1968/69	S Rioli	St Marys	1992/93	T Tilmouth	Wanderers
1969/70	R Cooper	Darwin	1993/94	D Puruntatameri	St Marys
1970/71	R Cooper	Darwin	1994/95	B Toy*	St Marys
1971/72	D Lew Fatt	St Marys		B Peris*	Nightcliff
1972/73	S Brown	Darwin	1995/96	A Vallejo	St Marys
1973/74	D Cope	Waratahs	1996/97	D Niki	Wanderers
1974/75 -	Competition suspended			J Krueger	Sthn Districts
1975/76	M Manolas	Darwin	1997/98	R Arabena	Palm Magpies
1976/77	K Bundle	St Marys	1998/99	X Clarke	St Marys
1977/78	A May	Waratahs	1999/00	A Mole	Darwin
1978/79	M Heenan	St Marys		M Berts	Palm Magpies
1979/80	W Briston	Darwin	2000/01	M Nyugen	Nightcliff
			2001/02	R Smith	Nightcliff

Hickman Medallists - Under 16 Best & Fairest

1963/64	D Stokes	Darwin	1984/85	D Mardi	Wanderers
1964/65	D Latham	Waratahs	1985/86	S Stokes	Darwin
1965/66	L Gregory	St Marys	1986/87	W Rioli*	St Marys
1966/67	P Quall	Darwin		G West*	St Marys
1967/68	S Rioli	St Marys	1987/88	K Howard	Darwin
1968/69	E Clarke	Darwin	1988/89	A Dohnt	Waratahs
1969/70	D Lew Fatt	St Marys	1989/90	N Tinoco	Darwin
1970/71	N Gella	Wanderers	1990/91	M Ryan	Waratahs
1971/72	K Biddell	Darwin	1991/92	B Rioli	Waratahs
1972/73	P Wallace	St Marys	1992/93	R Ah Mat	Darwin
1973/74	R Cooper	Darwin	1993/94	P Perkins	Nth Darwin
1974/75 -	Competition suspended-Cyclone		1994/95	J Cammarano	Nth Darwin
1975/76	M Peterson	Nightcliff	1995/96	T Burr Burr	Nightcliff
1976/77	C Shields	Wanderers	1996/97	E Bray	St Marys
1977/78	P Cubillo	St Marys	1997/98	S Bowden	Katherine
1978/79	G Nourse	St Marys	1998/99	A Davey	Palm Magpies
1979/80	M McLean	Nightcliff	1999/00	J Anstess	St Marys
1980/81	J Long	St Marys	2000/01	T Fittock*	Sthn Districts
1981/82	R McCoy	Nth Darwin		A Reti*	Magpies
1982/83	P Lacey	Darwin	2001/02	A Bond	Wanderers
1983/84	P Heenan	Nth Darwin			

* Tied - dual medals awarded

History of the NTFL

Gundersen Medallists - Under 14 B&F

1978/79 M McLean	Nightcliff	1990/91 P Perkins	Nth Darwin
1979/80 P Clarke	Wanderers	1991/92 S Kooops	Sthn Districts
1980/81 D Ross	Waratahs	1992/93 S Rusca	Sthn Districts
1981/82 P Lacey	Darwin	1993/94 D Cooper	Wanderers
1982/83 A Blake	Wanderers	1994/95 N Corpus	Sthn Districts
1983/84 P Heenan	Nth Darwin	1995/96 T Hentschell	Palm Magpies
1984/85 M Beggs	Sthn Districts	1996/97 X Clarke	St Marys
1985/86 C McDonald	Kormilda	1997/98 R Ayres	Darwin
1986/87 P Long	St Marys	1998/99 M Stokes	Darwin
1987/88 V Williams	Darwin	1999/00 A Motlop	Sthn Districts
1988/89 J Andrews	Sthn Districts	2000/01 S Thorne	Wanderers
1989/90 M Ryan	Waratahs	2001/02 P Shepherd	Palm Magpies

AT Shaw Medal – Under 14 Best on Ground

1998/99 Brendan Bailey	St Marys	2000/01 F Puruntatameri	St Marys
1999/00 Dwayne Whitehurst	Sthn Districts	2001/02 Andrew McLeod	Waratahs

Buffaloes Captain and 'Gentleman' footballer Steve Abala Snr receiving his Nichols Medal for NTFL Best &

*Fairest from NT
Administrator A R Driver on
'Town' Oval before the
1950/51 Grand Final between
Buffaloes and Waratahs*

History of the NTFL

4. UMPIRES

The umpiring fraternity like the NTFL has grown and developed through the years since Australian Rules football was first played in Darwin in 1916. Historical records show that there was one Central Umpire who was paid ten shillings per match, two Boundary Umpires supplied by clubs, and two Goal Umpires officiating in the early pre 1920 and 1920's matches.

Even in the early years of Darwin football, umpires were often involved in controversial incidents with clubs.

In 1924, Vesteys forfeited the last two matches of the 1923/24 season in response to a decision by the League not to accept a report on Field Umpire Bob Murray for striking Vesteys player D Presley. The League had refused to accept the report on the grounds that it was not received within 48 hours of the alleged incident. Mr Murray was appointed to umpire Vesteys' next match against Wanderers, which the Club duly forfeited.

In 1930/31, Wanderers Captain Charlie Wilson played in the Club's losing Semi Final, resigned as a player and was appointed to umpire the Grand Final between Waratahs and Buffaloes.

The presence of an Umpires Appointment Board came to notice in the 1934/35 season, when the Waratah club objected to playing under a Central Umpire appointed by the Umpires Appointment Board. As reported earlier in this book, this drama resulted in the Waratah team losing the Grand Final for not turning up for the match and the club's subsequent resignation from the League.

A significant development for umpires came with the formation of the Northern Territory Football League Umpires Association (NTFLUA) on 22 March 1965. The NTFLUA was formed with specific aims, all of which complemented the furthering of Australian Football in Darwin. In this regard, the Association can look back with pride on its achievements over the past years. From the original nine members in 1965, the Association has grown to a stage where it now enjoys the participation of over 60 members.

The inaugural President of the NTFLUA was well-known Darwin personality Bob Oaten. He steered the way through the first difficult year and established a firm foundation upon which the Association could build. The top Darwin umpire of the time John Auld took the Presidency in 1966 and not only strengthened the foundation, but increased the scope of the Association. It was under John's careful direction that the Umpires Knockout Carnival was instituted in 1967/68 and developed steadily.

Since its inception, the Umpires Knockout Carnival has grown and has become accepted as one of the major sporting events in the Top End each year. The Carnival is held on the weekend preceding the start of the NTFL season, and attracts teams from other centres of the Northern Territory, as well as the seven NTFL clubs and a number of NTFA teams. The Carnival is unique in Australia as it is a major fundraiser for junior football development in the Northern Territory. Money raised from the Carnival has increased from an annual total of approximately \$1,500 in 1974/75 to over \$20,000 in 1994/95. An overall total of \$240,000 has been donated to junior football and football development.

History of the NTFL

Some important events, which affected the umpiring scene in Darwin, included the appointment of VFL and SANFL umpires for Grand Finals between 1966/67 and 1972/73. The outside appointments were made as it was considered the local umpires of the time were not sufficiently qualified to control a Grand Final. Following protests from the local umpires and the newly formed Umpires Association, local umpires were appointed for Grand Finals from the 1973/74 season, Peter Atkinson being the first local umpire appointed since 1965/66. Another event or change occurred in the 1977/78 season with the introduction of the two Field Umpires system. This system has proved very successful and is being used in most Football Leagues throughout Australia.

Apart from the controversies in the early 1920's and 1930's, there have not been too many dramas in the umpiring scene, although the NTFL Umpires Association threatened strike action in 1978. The *Darwin Star* newspaper of Thursday 9 February 1978 reported 'NT Football League Umpires have gone on strike because of spectator violence. At an angry meeting last night, the NTFL Umpires Association decided to refuse to handle Saturday's games unless they are given police protection, and clubs post bond money to guarantee the behaviour of supporters.

The umpires' direction follows a series of ugly incidents at Gardens Oval last Saturday. They all occurred during and after the match of the day between Darwin and Nightcliff. Beer cans were thrown as Nightcliff attacked in the dying stages of the game.

Then a spectator had to be stopped from attacking a goal umpire. After the match, Field Umpires Dean Dempsey and John Hobbs were pushed and shoved as they left the ground. Obscenities were hurled after them.

The Umpires Association said after their meeting they would not umpire any further League fixtures until satisfactory negotiations are successfully completed with the NTFL.

But the door has been left open for a settlement before Saturday.

The Umpires Association President, Mr John Hobbs says the Association will only deem the negotiations to be satisfactory if two conditions are met.

First, they want the NTFL to impose a bond on all clubs. This would be forfeited by any club whose supporters cause serious trouble. Second, the umpires want a minimum of four policemen stationed inside the enclosure at Gardens Oval from 2 pm onwards on Saturdays.

The NTFL moved quickly in a bid to prevent a recurrence of Saturday's violence:

Gardens Oval was declared 'dry' for the remainder of the season.

The Police were approached and have agreed to station two, possibly four, policemen at the ground on Saturdays.

Two people concerned in Saturday's trouble were promptly suspended for five and ten years from all NTFL fixtures. Three others were severely reprimanded by letter. Troublemakers, including can throwers will be promptly ejected.

The two-umpire system - said to be less controversial - will be used at all A Grade games at Gardens.

History of the NTFL

The Umpires Association's immediate response to the flare-up was to ask the NTFL to impose a bond of \$2 000 on the Darwin club whose supporters were believed to have caused the trouble. The club would forfeit the bond if the incident occurred again'.

The threatened strike was averted when a mutual agreement was reached between the NTFL and the Umpires Association.

The Northern Territory Football League Umpires Association has proved itself progressive in the recruitment of new umpires. The Association has offered newcomers the opportunity to get and keep fit, free uniforms, earn a reasonable pay, and have an active social life. Membership is open to all ages and both sexes. The Association has over the past few years attracted a number of the fairer sex to its Boundary and Goal umpiring ranks. The 1993/94 season saw the introduction of the first female Field Umpire Jodie Smith in the Junior Grades competition. Jodie progressed to the Reserve Grade in 1994/95. The Junior Cadet Umpires scheme has also proved successful as a number of the former Cadets are now umpiring in the Reserves and League grades. Former Cadet Scott James' potential as a Field Umpire was realised in 1994/95, when he was appointed to regular League matches and Representative games.

Besides attracting females and juniors to its ranks, the NTFLUA has become a 'family' organisation with a number of husbands and wives taking on umpiring roles. The Ruehland family's record of seven umpires in one season (1994/95) would be hard to beat in any football competition. Dad Russell is a Reserves Grade Goal Umpire, mum Diane is an Under 18's Boundary Umpire, 18 year old Jason is an Under 18's Field Umpire, 16 year old Anthony is an Under 18's and Reserves Field Umpire, 14 year old Craig is an Under 18's Boundary Umpire and 12 year old twins Brett and Scott are under 16's Boundary Umpires. In 1999 all seven umpired in the same N.T.F.A match.

John Auld, John Statton, Norm Russell, Alf Goody, Percy and Judy Ellis, Ken Andrew, Peter Hardy, Les Bailey, Lyn Bradshaw, Eric Hurwood, Ian Ramsey and Ron Simounds are amongst a long list of umpires who have over the years given dedicated and tireless service to the NTFL Umpires Association.

First female Field Umpire to officiate at Reserve level Jodie Smith pictured with Scott James, the first Junior Cadet Umpire to progress to NTFL League and Representative match leaving field with Boundary Umpires Jason Horn and veteran Adrian Wellington

History of the NTFL

A.B.C UMPIRE OF THE YEAR

1998/99 Brett Roseberry
1999/00 Ben Schmidt

2000/01 Ben Schmidt
2001/02 Tim Sutcliffe

NTFL Umpires Association
Presidents, Secretaries & Treasurers 1965/66 to 1994/95

Season	President	Secretary	Treasurer
1965/66	B Oaten	J Statton	
1966/67	J Auld	J Statton	
1967/68	J Auld	J Statton	
1968/69	N Russell	J Statton	A Goody
1969/70	N Russell	J Statton	A Goody
1970/71	N Russell	J Statton	B Parry
1971/72	E Keogh	J Statton	T Angus
1972/73	T Angus	J Statton	B Parry
1973/74	T Angus	B Miller	B Parry
1974/75	B Miller		
	J Ellis		
1975/76	J Ellis		
1976/77	J Ellis	L Muller	
	J Hobbs		
1977/78	J Hobbs	L Muller	
1978/79	M Wilson		
1979/80	T Simpson	L Oakley	D LyRe
		D Bennie	
1980/81	T Simpson	P Hardy	T Usher
1981/82	L Bailey	S Semmler	I Ramsey
1982/83	L Bailey	S Semmler	I Ramsey
1983/84	L Bailey	P Hardy	I Ramsey
1984/85	I Ramsey	I Butterworth	J White
1985/86	L Bradshaw	I Butterworth	J White
1986/87	L Bradshaw	D Gordon	B Roy
1987/88	G Turbill	L Bradshaw	B Roy
1988/89	P Bomford	L Bradshaw	G Hackett
	P Hardy		
1989/90	P Hardy	R Holswich	T Jennison
1990/91	L Bradshaw	R Holswich	T Jennison
1991/92	L Bradshaw	R Holswich	G Turbill
1992/93	K Haslam	L Bradshaw	G Turbill
1993/94	K Haslam	L Bradshaw	G Turbill
1994/95	G Turbill	G Meyer	M Stevens
1995/96	K Pratt	J Smith	M Stevens
1996/97	K Pratt	J Robinson	M Stevens
1997/98	L Bradshaw	K Pratt	R Ruehland
1998/99	D Reuhland	J Dong	
1999/00	D Reuhland		R Ruehland
2000/01	R Ruehland	A Roberts	G Mathers
2001/02	J Richardson		

History of the NTFL

Grand Final Umpires (Central/Field) 1946/47 to 1994/95

Season	Central/Field Umpire	
1946/47	D Dowd	
1947/48	V Donegan	
1948/49	J Grigg	
1949/50	J Cart	
1950/51	T Boreham	
1951/52	T Boreham	
1952/53	J Newman	
1953/54	E Latham	
1954/55	R J Horton	
1955/56	L Jury	
1956/57	W Muir	
1957/58	W Stahlhut	
1958/59	W Bridgman	
1959/60	W Bridgman	
1960/61	J Bailes	
1961/62	M Keogh	
1962/63	M Keogh	
1963/64	John Auld	
1964/65	John Auld	
1965/66	I Munce	
1966/67	P Sheales	VFL
1967/68	M Posa	SANFL
1968/69	M Ducker	SANFL
1969/70	D Foster	SANFL
1970/71	B Noonan	SANFL
1971/72	D Foster	SANFL
1972/73	M Ducker	SANFL
1973/74	P Atkinson	
1974/75	Competition suspended - Cyclone Tracy	
1975/76	E Hansford	
1976/77	D Dempsey	
1977/78	D Dempsey	- J Hobbs
1978/79	D Dempsey	- F Brimson
1979/80	D Dempsey	- D Rebbeck
1980/81	J Kerlin	- D Rebbeck
1981/82	D Dempsey	- F Brimson
1982/83	J Kerlin	- D Rebbeck
1983/84	J Kerlin	- C Suradi
1984/85	J Hobbs	- C Suradi
1985/86	B Greene	- B Major
1986/87	L Argent	- G Turbill
1987/88	H Kennedy	- I Butterworth
1988/89	C Suradi	- R Thompson
1989/90	C Suradi	- L Harrison

Scott James umpired (field) V.S.F.L U/18 Grand Final 1997.

History of the NTFL

Grand Final Umpires (Central/Field) 1946/47 to 1994/95 (cont'd)

Season	Central/Field Umpire		
1990/91	D Dempsey	- C Green	
1991/92	D Tiller	- G Turbill	
1992/93	D Tiller	- W Bott	
1993/94	D Tiller	- L Argent	
1994/95	D Tiller	- W Bott	
1995/96	R Thompson	- S Miller	S James
1996/97	W Gallio	- B Ainslie	A Reuhland
1997/98	M Priest	- J Horn	A Reuhland
1998/99	B Rosebery	- J Horn	W Bott
1999/00	L Harrison	- A Roberts	B Schmidt
2000/01	J Collins	- A Roberts	B Schmidt
2001/02			

NTFL Umpires Association Carnival 1967/68 to 1994/95

Season	Club	Captain	Coach	Convenor
1967/68	Darwin	D Stokes	A Rossetto	J Auld
1968/69	Darwin	D Stokes	A Rossetto	J Auld
1969/70	Darwin	A Rossetto	A Rossetto	N Russell
1970/71	Darwin	R Elix	R Elix	N Russell
1971/72	Waratahs	F Strazdins	R Elix	J Statton
1972/73	Waratahs	F Strazdins	R Elix	J Statton
1973/74	Waratahs	R McKenzie	P Haysman	E Keogh
1974/75	Waratahs	R McKenzie	P Haysman	P Ellis
1975/76	Nightcliff	T Dragun	T Dragun	P Ellis
1976/77	North Darwin	A Collier	A Collier	P Ellis
1977/78	Nightcliff	A Oates	R Elix	P Ellis
1978/79	Darwin	K Bonson	W Ah Mat	P Ellis
1979/80	Nightcliff	R Boyanich	R Boyanich	P Ellis
1980/81	Wanderers	G Wanganeen	S Abala	P Ellis
1981/82	Wanderers	G Wanganeen	S Abala	P Ellis
1982/83	Darwin	D Bonson	R Cooper	P Ellis
1983/84	Nightcliff		I Smith	K Andrew
1984/85	Wanderers	K Wanganeen	S Abala	K Andrew
1985/86	St Marys	T Liddy	J Taylor	K Andrew
1986/87	Darwin	J Paterson	M Graham	G Baum
1987/88	Imalu	C Brogan	S Rioli	P Hardy
1988/89	Darwin	W Briston	I Smith	D Lehmann
1989/90	St Marys	N Long	J Taylor	G Willis
1990/91	Sthn Districts	B Hughes	R Buckley	G Turbill
1991/92	St Marys	S Hardy	J Taylor	R Cowles
1992/93	St Marys	D Hale	J Taylor	R Cowles
1993/94	Imalu	C Rioli	C Rioli	R Cowles
1994/95	St Marys	A Perry	J Taylor	G Turbill
1995/96	St Marys	M Athanasiou	J Taylor	K Pratt/M Stevens
1996/97	Sthn Districts	B Feeney	M Motlop	K Pratt/M Stevens
		G Atkins		
1997/98	St Marys		J Taylor	K Pratt
1998/99	Marlungku	D Parfitt		J Horn/B Mathers
1999/00	Waratahs	A Hoban	R Phillipson	B Mathers
2000/01				
2001/02	Sthn Districts			

History of the NTFL

NTFL UMPIRES - 50 PLUS GAMES

From the early 1970's up to and including the 1994/95 Football Season, 13 Field Umpires, 16 Boundary Umpires and 11 Goal Umpires have officiated in 50 or more League, Finals and Representative games.

The Umpires in the respective categories of Field, Boundary and Goal are as follows:

Field Umpires

D Dempsey	184
G Turbill	154
C Suradi	129
F Brimson	125
D Tiller	121
J Ellis	83
D Rebbeck	82
J Kerlin	73
L Bradshaw	75
D Strybos	70
B Roy	68
J Hobbs	63
T Schell	53
B Ainslie	61

Boundary Umpires

R Ellis	200
M Simpson	206
A Wellington	129
B West	188
G Samuels	109
D Price	104
D Lehmann	79
T Gibb	76
D Fong	69
N Johns	79

Goal Umpires

P Hardy	301
P Ellis	233
K Andrew	171
J Cardona	152
E Hurwood	113
R Cowles	114
K Haslam	124
R Jones	80
L Muller	79
R Holswich	62
N Schwartz	72
K Pratt	96
J Dong	84
M Wilson	63
S Cubillo	56
G Hazelbane	52

A Kariko	95
D Fong	69
K Kerin	69
J Horn	57
G Ostler	54
M Stevens	52
K Handley	67
E Walsh	51
Sam Robinson	72

A Royal occasion. Field Umpire Dean Dempsey introduces Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh to Goal Umpires Jan Horsfall and Brian Vincent, Reserve Boundary Umpire Graham Williams, and Boundary Umpires Herman Rooding and Geoff Samuels. NTFL Grand Final 1976/77

Field Umpire John Hobbs keeping an eye on proceedings during muddy match between Nightcliff and North Darwin at

Goal Umpire Mark Wilson and Boundary Umpire Geoff Samuels await the outcome of contest between players during Nightcliff Oval.

Gardens Oval,

Nightcliff/St Marys match at

History of the NTFL

5. NICHOLS MEDALLISTS/100 GAMES PLUS PLAYERS

Although the League's Best & Fairest award dates back to the early days of Darwin football, it is only since the 1948/49 season that this award has been named the Nichols Medal.

The award has been named after Joseph Wesley Nichols (a short profile on the man will appear in a later chapter of this book).

In 1993, the NTFL Board of Directors followed the trend of southern states' leagues and disposed of the old archaic votes system in situations of tied winners. As a result of the Board's decision, the following players were recognised as dual winners:

Terry Lew Fatt	St Marys	1958/59	Tied with Joe Bonson	11
Peter Marrego	Wanderers	1959/60	Tied with Joe Bonson	12
Keith Nickels	Waratahs	1971/72	Tied with Pat Murphy	13
Joe Daby	Nightcliff	1972/73	Tied with Pat Murphy	17
Mark Motlop	Nightcliff	1977/78	Tied with Bill Bennett	15
Ian Wallace	North Darwin	1977/78		

St Marys lead the individual club's Nichols Medal tally on 19, followed by Darwin 11, Nightcliff 11, Waratahs 9, Wanderers 6, North Darwin 2, and Southern Districts 3.

NTFL stalwarts Jack Haritos, Mike Barfoot and Darryl Window counting Nichols Medal votes

History of the NTFL

Records kept by the NTFL showed that the following players won the Best & Fairest award prior to the introduction of the Nichols Medal:

Rueben Cooper	Buffaloes	1921/22
Hec Atherton	Magpies	1926/27
Laurie Cubillo	Wanderers	1927/28
Eddie Cubillo	Buffaloes	1928/29
Jim Main	Waratahs	1929/30
Charlie Snape	Buffaloes	1930/31
Don Bonson	Buffaloes	1931/32
Walter Lew Fatt	Buffaloes	1932/33
Walter Lew Fatt	Buffaloes	1933/34
Ben Whittam	Garrison	1934/35
Don Bonson	Buffaloes	1935/36
D Bretherton	Garrison	1936/37
Leo Pon	Buffaloes	1937/38
Merv Johns	Garrison	1938/39
Joe McGuinness	Buffaloes	1940/41
Competition suspended in 1941/42 due to World War II.		

Records could not be found for winners for the years not shown between 1916/17 and 1940/41. Dual winners from the above list are Don Bonson from Buffaloes 1931/32 and 1935/36, and Walter Lew Fatt also from Buffaloes 1932/33 and 1933/34.

Nightcliff Football Club - Runners. Up 1985/86

Back - C Porter, A Campbell, D Amess, P McGann, D Croker, L Hayes, S Wuttki, E Motlop, H Fraser

Third Row - P Motlop, T Dragan, J Rioli, Mo Motlop, unknown, G Kane, unknown, D Peris, P Grant, G Lindner
Second Row - N Luff, unknown, R Cooper, D Grant, R Waddell, J Hansen, N Day, R Corrie, Mark
Motlop Front - C Disney (Trainer), C Suradi (coach), M Gregory, C Karoalis (Team Manager), (Mascot - Joel Suradi) Absent - C Williams

History of the NTFL

NTFL Best & Fairest Nichols Medallist
1946/47 to 1994/95

NTFL Best & Fairest

1946/47	L Pon	Buffaloes	14
	L Hickey	Waratahs	11
	A Holmes	RAAF	10
1947/48	B Daniell	Army/Navy	11
	R Peddar	Waratahs	10
	L Pon	Buffaloes	10
	Hayes	Army/Navy	10

Nichols Medal

1948/49	A Nation	Army/Navy	17
1949/50	J Sarib	Buffaloes	14
1950/51	S Abala Snr	Buffaloes	21
1951/52	D Ganley	Waratahs	15
	R Yee	Works/Hous	10
	R Graetz	Wanderers	9
1952/53	G McKee	Waratahs	13
	J Vaughan	St Marys	10
	K McKee	Waratahs	9
1953/54	B James	Waratahs	17
	J Vaughan	St Marys	15
	Ginger Boy	Wanderers	12
1954/55	B Roe	St Marys	
	J Sarib	Buffaloes	
	L Butler	Buffaloes	
1955/56	N Davies	St Marys	14
	J Mitchell	Works/Hous	13
	V Stone	Waratahs	10
1956/57	H Muir	Works/Hous	11
	B Potts	Wanderers	8
	P Scorer	Works/Hous	8
	G Roe	St Marys	8
1957/58	T Cooper	Wanderers	17
	Joe Bonson	Works/Hous	16
	J Anderson	Buffaloes	12
1958/59	Joe Bonson	Works/Hous	11
	T Lew Fatt	St Marys	11
	L Hickman	Waratahs	10
1959/60	Joe Bonson	Works/Hous	12
	P Marrego	Wanderers	12
	L Butler	Buffaloes	8
1960/61	J Wilson	Waratahs	20
	D Kantilla	St Marys	10
	F Perez	Buffaloes	7

1961/62	T Cooper	Wanderers	11
	J Anderson	Buffaloes	10
	T Lew Fatt	St Marys	9
1962/63	Bertram	Waratahs	9
	Joe Bonson	Works/Hous	8
	R Woodroffe	Darwin	7
1963/64	B Lew Fatt	Nightcliff	13
	J Anderson	Darwin	10
	J Leask	Waratahs	10
1964/65	G Lew Fatt	St Marys	14
	R Miller	Wanderers	12
	M McGrade	Waratahs	10
1965/66	R Moreen	Wanderers	16
	P Talman	Nightcliff	11
	T Lew Fatt	St Marys	8
	G Lew Fatt	St Marys	8
1966/67	L Gregory	St Marys	11
	P Atkins	St Marys	9
	P Davies	Waratahs	8
	D Stokes	Darwin	8
	D Ross	Darwin	8
1967/68	D Stokes	Darwin	11
	B Byrne	Nightcliff	9
	R Cooper	Darwin	8
	J McLeod	Darwin	8
	D Perry	Waratahs	8
1968/69	A Muir	Darwin	13
	M Ryan	Wanderers	13
	G Hopkins	Waratahs	11
1969/70	J Pepperill	St Marys	12
	L Gregory	St Marys	11
	F Strazdins	Waratahs	11
	M Poulter	Waratahs	10
1970/71	K Bonson	Nightcliff	15
	D Stokes	Darwin	14
	C Moyle	Darwin	11
	B Shields	Darwin	11
1971/72	P Murphy	St Marys	13
	K Nickels	Waratahs	13
	R Quall	Darwin	12
	J Daby	Nightcliff	12
1972/73	P Murphy	St Marys	17
	J Daby	Nightcliff	17
	B McKenzie	Waratahs	15
1973/74	M Graham	St Marys	15
	J Tye	Nightcliff	13
	B Harwood	Wanderers	13
	P Roach	Nightcliff	13

History of the NTFL

* Suspended

1974/75	Competition suspended					
1975/76	R Quall	Darwin	21	1988/89	W Rioli	St Marys 17
	F Cattellini	North Darwin	11		A Jakovich	Sthn Districts 15
	D Jenkins	North Darwin	11		B Hughes	Sthn Districts 14
1976/77	B Damaso	Darwin	14	1989/90	B Hughes	Sthn Districts 19
	K Nickels	Waratahs	13		N Long	St Marys 17
	T Liddy	St Marys	12		G Argus	Waratahs 14
1977/78	B Bennett	St Marys	15		R Jeffrey	Wanderers 14
	M Motlop	Nightcliff	15	1990/91	M Athanasiou	St Marys 16
	I Wallace	North Darwin	15		P Piva	Waratahs 11
1978/79	J Tye	Nightcliff	17		M McLean	Nightcliff 10
	J McLennon	North Darwin	16		B Stanislaus	St Marys 10
	D Lew Fatt	Darwin	15		C Simon	Nightcliff 10
1979/80	H McPhee	Waratahs	18	1991/92	J Jones	Darwin 20
	T Lawler	Darwin	17		W Rioli	St Marys 18
	M Motlop	Nightcliff	16		N Long	St Marys 14
1980/81	J Daby	Nightcliff	14	1992/93	N Long	St Marys 16
	D Hindson	Wanderers	12		D Taylor	Wanderers 12
	J Warren	Nightcliff	11		S Shewring	Sthn Districts 11
1981/82	P Ivanoff	Waratahs	19	1993/94	J Jones	Darwin 29
	L Myles	St Marys	16		T Weetra	St Marys 24
	L Grosset	Nightcliff	14		A Kerinaua	Nth Darwin 21
1982/83	T Lehman	North Darwin	18	1994/95	J Howes	Wanderers 15
	M Motlop	Nightcliff	17		B Stanislaus	St Marys 14
	G Russell	Wanderers	16		M Christensen	St Marys 12
1983/84	W Briston	Darwin	18	1995/96	M Christensen	St Marys 15
	J Paterson	Darwin	17		C Rioli	St Marys 15
	R Barrett	Nightcliff	14		G Taylor	Sthn Districts 14
1984/85	S Thomson	St Marys	15		B Mawson	Wanderers 13
	C Dunn	St Marys	14	1996/97	N Murphy	Nightcliff 15*
	T Lawler	Darwin	14*		C Rioli	St Marys 11
1985/86	D Christensen	St Marys	14		J McLeod	St Marys 11
	W McCoy	North Darwin	13		W Feeney	Sthn Districts 11
	G McAdam	Waratahs	12	1997/98	N Murphy	Nightcliff 15
	M Motlop	Nightcliff	12		M Ahmat	Darwin 14
1986/87	P Ivanoff	Waratahs	17		W Rioli	Waratahs 14*
	P McGann	Nightcliff	16		C Rioli	St Marys 13
	M Athanasiou	St Marys	16	1998/99	A Collard	Sthn Districts 14
1987/88	S Stokes	Darwin	15		T Weetra	St Marys 14
	D Ross	Darwin	14		M Whelan	Darwin 13
	K Wanganeen	Wanderers	12	1999/00	K Maher	Sthn Districts 20
					M Tyrell	Palm Magpies 12
					M Berry	St Marys 10
					G Griffiths	Waratahs 10
				2000/01	K Maher	Sthn Districts 16
					A Harvey	Sthn Districts 12
					S Tiploura	Waratahs 12*
					J Ilett	St Marys 11
					B Chambers	Nightcliff 11

* Suspended

*Jason Jones receiving
Nichols Medal from
Spurge Nichols, son of J W
Nichols*

History of the NTFL

100 GAMES PLUS PLAYERS

As a number of player statistics records were lost during Cyclone Tracy, the NTFL has only been able to compile a list of players who have played over 100 games from 1975/76 to 1994/95. The list is subject to change by players still currently competing in the NTFL senior grade. The list is as follows:

In round 19 of the 1996/97 season Mark Motlop became the first ever N.T.F.L Player to play 300 games. In the 1998/99 season Michael Athanasiou played his 300th game and is currently the leading N.T.F.L games record holder.

PLAYER	TEAM	NO. OF GAMES
Michael Athanasiou	St Marys	328
Mark Motlop	Nightcliff/Wanderers/Sthn Districts	304
Edward Liddy	St Marys	272
Kevin Wanganeen	St Marys/Wanderers	272
Robert Cooper	Darwin/Nightcliff	256
Cyril Rioli	St Marys	244
Warren McCoy	North Darwin	232
Peter Reid	Darwin	224
David Cusack	St Marys/Wanderers/Nth Darwin	221
Noel Long	St Marys	216
John Paterson	Darwin	214
Poncie Cubillo	St Marys/Wanderers	213
Hank McPhee	Waratahs/St Marys	212
Eddie Cubillo	St Marys/Wanderers/Nightcliff	211
Mo Motlop	Nightcliff/Wanderers	206
David Atkinson	Darwin	206
Brian Long	St Marys	204
Dennis Dunn	St Marys	204
David Russell	Nth Darwin/Wanderers	203
Shane Shewring	Sthn Districts	203
Brian Stanislaus	St Marys	203
Ingvar Dyrting	Nightcliff	201
Gabby Weetra	St Marys	201
Gus Wanganeen	Wanderers	200
Rod McPhee	Waratahs/St Marys	200
Paul Motlop	Nightcliff/Sthn Districts/Darwin	200
Tommy Weetra	St Marys	185
Don Bonson Jr	Darwin/Nightcliff	180
Steven Hayes	Darwin	179
Kevin Quail	Darwin	177
William Briston	Darwin	171
Russell Jeffrey	St Marys/Wanderers/Palm Magpies	171
Patrick Long	St Marys	170
Steven Stokes	Darwin	169
Andrew Cooper	Wanderers	168
Michael Williams	Darwin	166
David Peris	Nightcliff	165
Aaron Perry	St Marys	165
Peter McGann	Nightcliff	163
Dusty Millar	Wanderers	163
David Parfitt	Darwin/Sthn Districts	163
Joel McLennon	North Darwin	162
Tom Lawler	Darwin	161
Dennis Lewfatt	St Marys/Darwin	161
Damien Berto	St Marys	161
David Totham	Wanderers	159
Philip May	Darwin	159
Greg Bruce	Darwin	155
James Sing	Darwin/Sthn Districts/St Marys	155
Bruce Jarmyn	Sthn Districts	154
John Long	St Marys	152
Jason Cockatoo	Sthn Districts	152
Eddie Motlop	Nightcliff	150
Joe Jeffrey	Wanderers/Nightcliff	149
Peter Dwyer	Waratahs	147
Jock McLeod	Darwin/Palm Magpies	147
William Ellis	Wanderers	145
Craig Porter	Nightcliff	144
Bill Feeney	Sthn Districts/Nightcliff	144

PLAYER	TEAM	NO. OF GAMES
David Nason	Nth Darwin/Sthn Districts	141
Eddie Kitching	Darwin/Waratahs	140
Craig Simon	Nightcliff	140
John Tye	Darwin/Nightcliff	138
Anthony Hoban	Waratahs	138
John Roberts	St Marys/Wanderers	136
Alwyn Davey	North Darwin	135
Archie Harvey	Sthn Districts	134
Peter Stennett	Wanderers	133
John Stokes	North Darwin	132
Peter March	St Marys	132
Troy Angel	Wanderers	131
Brett Edwards	North Darwin	129
Robert Rusca	Sthn Districts	129
Geoffrey Angeles	Darwin	128
Graham Ross	Waratahs	128
Alfie May	Darwin/Waratahs	127
Willie Rioli	St Marys/Waratahs	127
John Lidgerwood	St Marys	127
Norm Hagen	Darwin	123
Gerard Atkins	Sthn Districts/Waratahs	123
Alberto Cubillo	St Marys	122
Clay Millar	North Darwin	121
Wayne McLennan	St Marys	120
Ron Roe	St Marys/Waratahs/Nightcliff	120
Corey Kurnoth	Darwin/Palm Magpies	119
Doug Kelly	Wanderers/Katherine/Nightcliff	118
Ross McGowan	Wanderers	118
Bruce Hoffman	Nth Darwin/Nightcliff/Darwin/Sthn Dist/Wand	118
Norm Murphy	Nightcliff	117
Russel May	Waratahs	116
Darren Flanigan	Sthn Districts	116
Xavier Clarke	St Marys	115
Brentley Hughes	Wanderers/Katherine/Sthn Dist/N'cliff	115
Adrian Moscheni	St Marys	115
David Muller	Wanderers	114
Joe Daby	Nightcliff	113
Errol McCoy	North Darwin	113
Alan Oates	Nightcliff	113
Wilson Lee	Waratahs	111
Peter Johns	North Darwin	111
Jason Jones	Darwin/Palm Magpies	111
Gary Johnston	Darwin/Nth Darwin	110
Leo Hayes	Darwin/Nightcliff/SthDistricts	110
Ian Smith	North Darwin/Darwin	109
Shaun Hardy	St Marys	109
Jerry Frank	Palm Magpies	109
Stuart Scenery	St Marys	108
Steven Briston	Darwin/SthnDistricts	108
Adrian Kidney	Nightcliff	108
Steven Long	St Marys	107
Basil Damaso	Darwin/Nightcliff	106
Shane Ponter	St Marys	106
Peter Molley	Nightcliff	105
Rod McLean	Waratahs	104
Keith Nickels	Waratahs	103
John Cusack	St Marys/Wanders/Nth Darwin	103
Glen Castillon	Darwin/Wanderers/Nth Darwin	103
Brad Copeland	Sthn Districts	103

History of the NTFL

PLAYER	TEAM	NO. OF GAMES
Jamie Kreuger	Darwin	103
Jeff Sullivan	St Marys/Wanderers	102
Shamus Sharkey	Wanderers	101
Steve Liddel	Darwin/Palm Magpies/Sthn Districts/Wanderers	101
Tom Sandery	Waratahs	100
Phil Rout	Wanderers	100
Alan Moore	Darwin	100

St Marys Football Club - Premiers 1994/95

Back - P Bailey (Football Manager), J Taylor (coach), I Butt (Property Steward), P Thornton (water boy), N Long, W McLennan, D Breen, D Myles, T Trimble, P Rea, S Ponter, B Stanislaus, D Hale, B Wheaten (waterboy), A Breed (Chairman of Selectors), V Ludwig (Pres)
 Middle - A Moscheni, S Carey, D Perry, D Dunn, M Athanasiou (c), C Rioli, A Henry, J Kerr, A Perry, J Kennedy (Timekeeper)
 Front - J Lidgerwood, S Sceney, F Lawler, R Brodhlorst, P Long, M Hilderbrandt, J Hill, M Vigona, T Weetra, M Christensen

History of the NTFL

PLAYER LIFE MEMBERS

In 1988, the NTFL introduced Player Life Membership. For players who had qualified prior to this date the League invited clubs to nominate four players who had given long and meritorious service. From 1988, players who had played 200 games or more (from 1975/76) are automatically awarded Player Life Membership.

1986	William Ah Matt	Darwin
"	Jimmy Anderson	Darwin
"	Sebastian Briston	Darwin
"	Lionel Butler	Darwin
1986	Ken Bonson	Nightcliff
"	John Bonson	Nightcliff
"	Benny Lew Fatt	Nightcliff
"	W "Bill" Muir	Nightcliff
1986	Edmund Johnston	St Marys
"	Terry Lew Fatt	St Marys
"	Jack Long	St Marys
"	Peter March	St Marys
1986	Ted Cooper	Wanderers
"	Billy Ellis	Wanderers
"	Bill Hobson	Wanderers
"	Doug Kelly	Wanderers
1986	Snowy Klose	Waratahs
"	Keith Nickels	Waratahs
"	Michael PouRer	Waratahs
"	Ralph Wiese	Waratahs
1987	John Tye	Nightcliff
1988	Ted Liddy	St Marys
1989	John Paterson	Darwin
1990	Robert Cooper	Darwin/Nightcliff
"	Mark Motlop	Nightcliff
"	Kevin Wanganeen	St Marys
"	David Russell	North Darwin/Wanderers
"	Hank McPhee	Waratahs/St Marys
"	Rod McPhee	Waratahs/St Marys
"	Warren McCoy	North Darwin
1991	Gus Wanganeen	Wanderers
1992	Michael Athanasiou	St Marys
"	Brian Long	St Marys
1994	Poncie Cubillo	St Marys/Wanderers
"	David Cusack	St Marys/Wanderers/North Darwin
"	Frank Perez	Darwin (late recognition)
1995	David Atkinson	Darwin
1996	Noel Long	St Marys
1997	Inguar Dyrting	Nightcliff
1997	Eddie Cubillo	Wanderers
1998	Cyril Rioli	St Marys
	Dennis Dunn	St Marys
	Peter Reid	Darwin
1999/00	Paul Motlop	Darwin
	Mo Motlop	Nightcliff/Wanderers
2000/01	Shane Shewring	Sthn Districts
2001/02	Brian Stanislaus	St Marys
	Gabby Weetra	Sthn Districts
	Shane Ponter	St Marys

History of the NTFL**ABC Player of the Year**

1998-99	Adrian Collard	Sthn Districts
1999-00	Kelvin Maher	Sthn Districts
2000-01	Robbie Swift	Darwin
2001-02	Craig McGough	Waratahs

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6. TRIBUNAL

The NTFL Tribunal has been in existence since the early days of football in Darwin. Although some clubs and supporters over the years have not been happy with the Tribunal's decisions in a number of cases, they were never as badly affected as the Wanderers Club who withdrew from the League after the 1924/25 season because they thought the penalties imposed on a number of its players was unfair. It took the Wanderers Club four seasons to get over their disapproval of the then Tribunal's decision, and they re-entered the League in 1929/30.

Hard decisions handed down by the Tribunal over the last two decades resulted in:

Players missing out on Grand Finals after being reported in the Semi or Preliminary Finals; players given guilty verdicts missing out on Nichols Medal although having highest votes; and
1991 Victorian TEAL Cup player found guilty for striking missing out on All Australian selection.

Light-hearted moments at Tribunal Hearings included a report on a Junior player whose vocabulary included f- every few words. The player was reported for using obscene language, which could be heard by spectators including young children watching the particular match. When asked to comment on the Umpire's report, the player admitted he had a language problem and said that f- was used all the time at home by all members of the family. He finished by saying to the Chairman 'I'm f- sorry for upsetting the f- Umpire, but as you can see I do have a f- problem'. The player's advocate in turn pleaded for leniency because of the player's unfortunate problem. The Chairman did well in keeping a straight face when announcing a two-week suspension, and advising the player that he should seek help in overcoming his problem or he would be fronting the Tribunal on a regular basis and missing out on his football. The player eventually finished his football career before the end of the particular season.

Up until the 1990/91 season, the NTFL Disciplinary Tribunal comprised three Commissioners appointed by the League at the first General Meeting after the Annual General Meeting.

The 1991/92 season saw an important change to the Tribunal System with the replacement of the three Commissioner Tribunal by the one Commissioner Tribunal. The NTFL now joins the SANFL as the only two State Leagues, which have a one Commissioner Tribunal.

One of the reasons for the change was to speed up Tribunal Hearings, which during busy nights in previous years went beyond midnight on several occasions. Another reason being the League was looking for consistency in Tribunal Findings. Also, clubs through their advocates questioned the need for three Commissioners to ask questions on evidence presented by umpires, witnesses and players or officials, and whether it was necessary for three Commissioners to decide if a player was guilty or not guilty, and what penalty should be banded out to the player if found guilty.

The move of the NTFL to Football Park Marrara in 1991 gave the Disciplinary Tribunal a permanent and proper facility to hold its Hearings. Hearings were previously held in the office premises under the Hunter Harrison Stand at Gardens Oval from 1979/80 to 1990/91. Prior to 1979/80, the venues for Tribunal Hearings ranged from Casuarina High School, Don Hotel, MLC Building, or wherever the Tribunal Secretary of the time was able to make suitable arrangements.

History of the NTFL

7. NT PLAYERS IN SOUTHERN LEAGUES

The 1993, AFL season highlighted the increasing numbers of quality players recruited from the Northern Territory. Michael Long will be remembered for his magnificent game for Essendon in the AFL Grand Final, culminating in an Essendon Premiership and Michael winning the Best on Ground Norm Smith Medal. Nathan Buckley finished off a top year playing for Brisbane Bears by winning the AFL Rookie of the Year award. Michael McLean won his second AFL club Brisbane Bears' Best & Fairest award, and the McAdam brothers Gilbert and Adrian thrilled the footballing public with magic displays for their respective clubs St Kilda and North Melbourne.

The 1994 AFL season had mixed fortunes and changes to NT players. Michael Long missed the entire season with a broken leg, Nathan Buckley transferred to Collingwood and won the club Best & Fairest Copeland Trophy equal 1st 1994 and 1996, and Gilbert McAdam transferred to Brisbane Bears. Darryl White and Fabian Francis started to become regular League players with the Brisbane Bears. Warren Campbell joined Adrian McAdam at North Melbourne.

In 1995, NT players made a big impact on the AFL with 12 players contracted to the following six clubs:

Adelaide	Andrew McLeod (Darwin)
Brisbane	Michael McLean (N'cliff), Gilbert McAdam (Waratahs/Sth Alice)**, Daryl White (Darwin/Rovers/Pioneers)
Collingwood	Nathan Buckley (Sthn Dist), Robbie AhMat (Darwin)
Essendon	Michael Long (St Marys), Shaun Lew Fatt (Sthn Dist)*
Fremantle	Scott Chisholm (St Marys), Gary Dhurrkay (Wanderers), Steven Koops (Sthn Districts)
Geelong	Ronnie Burns
North Melbourne	Adrian McAdam (Sthn Dist/Darwin/Sth Alice), Warren Campbell (St Marys)
St Kilda	Xavier Clarke (St Marys)
Collingwood	Richard Cole

The 12 NT players have played League football for their respective clubs. Following a contractual disagreement with the Brisbane Bears, Fabian Francis transferred to SANFL club Port Adelaide and was a member of the Club's 1995 Premiership team.

Recognition should be given to three players who in the 1950's and 1960's, led the way for the Territory's players invasion of the three major Southern Leagues viz VFL/AFL, WAFL and SANFL. The players were Bill Roe and David Kantilla from St Marys, and Rueben Cooper from Darwin.

NTFL PLAYERS STINTS IN THE WESTERN AUSTRALIA FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Bill Roe is recorded as the first local player to show his football prowess in a southern league when he joined East Perth in the Western Australian Football League in 1956. Bill played 11 League games in his first year and another two games in 1958. He must have created an impression with the WAFL clubs, as he was followed by a stream of top NTFL players who have since played League football in the WAFL competition.

In 1960, Bill Dempsey, a ruckman from the Darwin Club joined West Perth and enjoyed a 16 year relationship with that club. A profile on Bill's football career appears in the Club Histories chapter

AFL Rookie Draft

1997	Shaun Lewfatt	Essendon
	Luke Ottens	Waratahs (Glenelg SA)
1998	Dean Rioli	Waratahs (Sth Fremantle) Essendon

AFL Draft

2001	No. 5	Xavier Clarke	St Kilda
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History of the NTFL

of this book. Bill was followed by Sibby Rioli from St Marys, who played 51 games with South Fremantle between 1972 and 1976.

In 1974, Lindsay McGuinness, a centreline/defence player from the Darwin club joined West Perth where he gave outstanding service in his 113 games career with the club. The 1975 WAFL season would be well remembered by the South Fremantle club, as their new recruits included Basil Campbell, a tough rugged defender, and the legendary Maurice Rioli, both from the St Marys Club. Basil went on to play 100 games with the club and gained state selection in 1976. A profile on Maurice Rioli's career appears in the Club Histories chapter of this book.

NTFL players who have played for WAFL clubs are as follows:

Claremont	- Scott Chisholm (St Marys)
East Fremantle	- Gary Dhurrkay (Wanderers)
East Perth	- Bill Roe (St Marys), Russell May (Waratahs)
Sth Fremantle	- Sibby Rioli (St Marys), Maurice Rioli (St Marys), Basil Campbell (St Marys), Benny Vigona (St Marys), Willie Roe (St Marys), Cyril Rioli (St Marys), Cadji Dunn (St Marys), Willie Rioli (St Marys)
Swan Districts	- Kevin Caton (Darwin)
West Perth	- Bill Dempsey (Darwin), Lindsay McGuinness (Darwin) Don 'Dookie' Bonson (Darwin)

NTFL PLAYERS STINTS IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

David Kantilla's debut in the SANFL with South Adelaide in 1960 paved the way for other NTFL players entry into Adelaide football. During the period 1960 to 1965, David played 113 games with South Adelaide, represented South Australia in State games, and was a member of South Adelaide's 1964 Premiership team. He played under legendary Coach Neil Kerley and was a team-mate of former NTFL President Tony Shaw.

Originally from Bathurst Island, David Kantilla made his way to South Adelaide on recommendation of Len Atkins through the St Marys club in Darwin where he played as a ruckman. He is the first full-blood Aboriginal to play senior football in a southern league. Kantilla's Restaurant at Football Park Marrara was named as a tribute to David's contribution to Australian football.

Another NT player to make an impact in the SANFL was Mike Poulter from the Waratahs club who started with Norwood in 1968. A profile on Mike's football career appears in the Club Histories chapter of this book.

Eddie Fry from the Wanderers club starred for South Adelaide between 1975 and 1979 (105 games), and for Sturt where he played 153 games over the period 1980 to 1987. Eddie also represented South Australia in interstate matches against Victoria and Western Australia.

Emmanuel Kerinaia played for St George & NSW and was the leading goalkicker for them in the year 1969 scoring 93 goals. He also played for Sth Adelaide in.....

History of the NTFL

NTFL players who have played for SANFL clubs are as follows:

Central Districts	Ali Muir (Darwin), Gilbert McAdam (Waratahs)
Eagles	Smart Totham (Wanderers)
Glenelg	Mark Motlop (Nightcliff)
North Adelaide	Greg McAdam (Darwin/South Alice)
Norwood	John Clarke (Darwin), Mike Poulter (Waratahs), Rohan Helyar (Nightcliff), Joe Ah Mat (Darwin), John Tye (Nightcliff), Paul Motlop (Nightcliff)
Port Adelaide	Richard Bray (Nightcliff), Nathan Buckley (Sthn Dist), Fabian Francis (Sthn Dist), Keith Nickels (Waratahs)
South Adelaide	David Kantilla (St Marys), *Eddie Fry (Wanderers), Gerry Hurst
Sturt	*Eddie Fry (Wanderers), Adrian Moscheni (St Marys)
West Adelaide	Norm Hagen (Darwin), Ted Liddy (St Marys)
West Torrens	Arthur Tye (Darwin), Joe Clarke (Darwin), Ron Quail (Darwin), Michael Long (St Marys), Noel Long (St Marys), Michael Athanasiou (St Marys), David Lee (Tiwi Islands)

*Eddie Fry played for two clubs

NTFL PLAYER STINTS IN THE VFL/AFL

The first NTFL local player to play in the then Victorian Football League (now Australian Football League) was Rueben Cooper from the Darwin Club. Rueben joined the old South Melbourne Football Club in 1968, and played only two senior games during his three-year association with the club.

Although he played mostly with the Reserves, Rueben fronted up as second rover to triple Brownlow Medallist Bob Skilton in his League matches. He obviously had tough competition in trying to break into the big league, and he certainly had a tough but great coach to impress in the legendary Norm Smith. Rueben returned to Darwin in the 1970/71 season and won the NTFL Leading Goalkicker Award with 46 goals.

It wasn't until 1982 when the next NTFL player made his entry into the VFL competition. Maurice Rioli arrived highly credentialled from WAFL club South Fremantle and made an immediate impact on the VFL scene.

Another great Territory player followed fairly quickly after Maurice Rioli, when Michael McLean joined Footscray in 1983 and became one of the club's outstanding players until he left the club in 1989 and joined the Brisbane Bears in 1991. A profile on Michael's football career appears in the Club Histories chapter in this book.

Russell Jeffrey followed Michael McLean when he joined St Kilda in 1987. Russell's association with St Kilda from 1987 to 1991 was unfortunately restricted by injuries, and he only played 42 games with the club. He also played eight League games with Brisbane Bears. A profile on Russell's football career appears in the Club Histories chapter in this book.

The five footballers who put the Northern Territory on the AFL map in 1993 with their outstanding performances were the evergreen Michael McLean, and the up and coming stars of the future in

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Michael Long, Gilbert and Adrian McAdam, and Nathan Buckley. Short profiles on the four relative newcomers to the AFL are as follows:

Michael Long

Michael will be remembered as a skinny youngster who started his football career in St Marys Juniors and played his first League game at the age of 16. He played a total of 52 League games and was a member of Saints 1986/87 and 1987/88 Premiership teams.

Michael represented the NTFL in five Australia Day and Representative matches against AFL clubs from 1988 to 1993, and played in the 1988 NFL Bicentennial Carnival against Tasmania, Australian Amateurs and VFA. He was named in the 1988 Bicentennial All Australian team.

In 1988, Michael played 22 League games with West Torrens in the SANFL, and finished third in the Magarey Medal with 17 votes. He transferred to Essendon in 1989, winning the 1989 AFL Rookie of the Year, and played his 100th AFL game against West Coast Eagles in the 1993 First Semi Final. Since his move to the southern leagues in 1988, Michael has developed his physique through the rigorous weight and other training methods of the southern clubs, and has improved his skills level to attain his standing as a champion footballer.

Gilbert McAdam

Gilbert is a product of the Centralian Football League in Alice Springs where he started his football career with Souths. He played in the Junior and Senior teams of the club, following in the footsteps of his older brother Greg, who also played for North Adelaide in the SANFL and St Kilda in the VFL/AFL.

Gilbert had two seasons (1988/89 and 1989/90) with Waratahs in the NTFL, and joined Central Districts in the SANFL in 1988, where he played under one of South Australia's top coaches in Neil Kerley. Kerley's coaching would have contributed in Gilbert's improvement to his already-made skills, which resulted in Gilbert winning the Magarey Medal in 1989.

Gilbert moved to St Kilda in 1991, and has more than repaid the club's move in recruiting him with his magical plays either on the ball or in the wing position.

In 1994 Gilbert transferred to the Brisbane Bears, where he is one of their key players.

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Adrian McAdam

Adrian burst into the 1993 AFL scene unheralded, with many AFL followers not knowing he was Gilbert McAdam's brother. North Melbourne created the biggest surprise of the season when they named Adrian in the forward pocket in his very first game alongside full forward John Longmire. The first half of the season caught the rest of the AFL clubs napping, as they did not know how to handle the newcomer who combined with Longmire and Wayne Carey to form one of the most potent forward lines in the competition.

Like Michael McLean, Adrian did not enter the AFL through any of the other southern leagues, and was therefore virtually unheard of when he made his debut with North Melbourne. He started his football career in the Centralian Football League in Alice Springs where he played junior and senior football with Souths. Adrian had a season with NTFL club Darwin in 1987/88, and a season with Southern Districts in 1989/90.

Adrian shares a common characteristic in his style of play with Michael Long and brother Gilbert, in that they all had a deceptive change of pace and side-step which opponents found hard to combat.

Nathan Buckley

Nathan started his football career in the junior grades with Nightcliff and Southern Districts. He also played junior football in Victoria when he attended boarding school in 1985/86.

With the help of weights and strict training methods complementing the normal growing process, Nathan developed physically from a thin youngster to a strong, well-proportioned footballer, which has helped his development as a potential AFL star of the future.

Nathan joined SANFL club Port Adelaide in 1991. After one season in the Under 19 team, he made the League team in 1992 and had an outstanding year culminating in winning the Magarey Medal in his first year of senior football.

As mentioned earlier in this chapter, Nathan joined

Brisbane Bears in the 1993 AFL season and won the AFL Rookie of the Year award. He is a strong mark, long kick and is high on the list of players with most ball possessions.

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Following a successful end to the long drawn out battle for Nathan's services between Brisbane Bears and Collingwood, Nathan achieved his ambition of playing for Collingwood in 1994, winning the club's Best & Fairest Copeland trophy in his first season.

Twenty two NTFL players have played league football for VFL/AFL clubs, one (Kevin Caton) with three clubs and six (Michael McLean, Rod Waddell, Russell Jeffrey, Gilbert McAdam, Nathan Buckley and Fabian Francis) with two clubs. The VFL/AFL clubs and NTFL players are as follows:

Adelaide	- Andrew McLeod (Darwin)
Brisbane	- Michael McLean (Nightcliff), Russell Jeffrey (Wanderers), Kevin Caton (Darwin), Gilbert McAdam (Waratahs), Nathan Buckley (Sthn Districts), Daryl White (Darwin), Fabian Francis (Sthn Districts)*
Collingwood	Nathan Buckley, Robbie Ah Mat (Darwin)-(Sydney Swans 97')
Essendon	- Michael Long (St Marys), Shaun Lew Fatt (Sthn Districts), Lachlan Ross
Fitzroy	Kevin Caton
Footscray	Michael McLean
Fremantle	Scott Chisholm (St Marys), Gary Dhurrkay (Wanderers)-(Melbourne 98'), Steven Koops
Melbourne	Fabian Francis
North Melbourne	Adrian McAdam (Darwin and Sthn Dists), Warren Campbell (St Marys)
Richmond	Maurice Rioli (St Marys), Joel Bowden (West Alice)
St Kilda	Greg McAdam (Darwin), Russell Jeffrey, Gilbert McAdam, Bob Jones*, Xavier Clarke (St Marys)
Sth Melb/Sydney	Rueben Cooper (Darwin), Brian Stanislaus (St Marys), Matthew Ah Mat (Dwn)
West Coast Eagles -	Kevin Caton, David Wirrpunda #
Carlton/Geelong	Rod Waddell (Nightcliff)

Included in the NTFL players who have played for SANFL and VFL/AFL clubs are four players who started their football careers with the Central Australian Football League (CAFL). The three McAdam brothers Greg, Gilbert and Adrian played for South Alice Springs, and Daryl White played for Pioneers and Rovers.

John 'Bubba ' Tye showing his wet weather skills playing for Darwin against St Marys in the 1972/73 Grand Final won by Darwin. Bubba was Best on Ground.

* Born in Territory, never played AFL
Born in gove

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8. SOUTHERN LEAGUE PLAYERS STINTS IN NTFL

Since the early days of Australian Rules in Darwin, footballers from the southern leagues have played in the NTFL competition from time to time for various reasons such as transfers in their job, gaining match practice after injuries in the southern competition, and waiting for clearances between southern clubs.

As reported in the 'Beginnings' chapter of this book, a number of top southern players including Claude Stanlake (St Kilda), Bob McDonald and Alec and Artie Conlan (South Australia), and Jimmy Monaghan (Western Australia) played in the NTFL competition as early as the 1920's and 1930's.

The 1970's and 1980' s saw five of the top VFL players of their time take the field at Gardens Oval to treat Darwin spectators to some of the best displays of football ever played in the NTFL. The five players were Robert Muir, Rod Gait, Ken Hunter, Ray Boyanich and Val Perovic.

Robert Muir was the complete footballer, with breathtaking skills who had a controversial career, which did not fulfill its real potential. He had great pace, lightning reflexes and was a brilliant mark, but his quickfire temper led to a long list of incidents in the VFL and NTFL. He played for St Kilda from 1974 to 1980 and 1984, and played three seasons with Wanderers 1975/76, 1976/ 77 and 1978/79.

Rod Gait was a tall angular ruckman with an awkward style whom St Kilda hoped would cover the loss of Carl Ditterich who was transferring to Melbourne in 1973. He had his share of discipline problems and a lackadaisical attitude prevented him from really fulfilling his potential in the AFL. Rod played for St Kilda from 1971 to 1974, Carlton from 1975 to 1979, and played one season 1976/77 for North Darwin.

Ken Hunter was a magnificent footballer from Claremont in the Western Australian Football League, who went on to become one of Carlton's greats in the 1980's. Totally courageous, he looked like a bag of bones, but was a brilliant mark who was always willing to get into the action at the bottom of the pack. Essentially he was a defender, but could take a turn on the ball or play on the forward line. Ken played one season (1979/80) with North Darwin, went back to Claremont for one season, and transferred to Carlton where he played from 1981 to 1989.

Ray Boyanich was a big ruckman who played for Richmond from 1970 to 1972 and 1976. He transferred to Claremont in the WAFL and played two seasons (1977/78 and 1979/80) in the NTFL for Nightcliff, where he coached in his last season with the club.

Val Perovic had long finished his VFL career when he played a handful of games with Nightcliff in the 1986/87 season. He was a tremendous defender, playing for St Kilda from 1973 to 1979, and Carlton from 1980 to 1985. He became a cult figure in the VFL as the crowd shouted 'woof every time he unleashed a booming punt.

Other VFL/AFL footballers who played for NTFL clubs were Ray Gabelich (Collingwood), Pat Murphy (St Kilda), Bob McKenzie (Melbourne), Glenn Middlemiss (Geelong and St Kilda), Colin Hounsell (South Melbourne/Sydney Swans), Bill Bennett (Carlton), Damien Christensen

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(Geelong), Malty Christensen (Geelong), and the 'Clown Prince' of football Mark Jackson (Melbourne, St Kilda and Geelong). Ray Gabelich played a couple of games for Waratahs in 1961 / 62, and Pat Murphy played for St Marys from 1970/71 to 1972/73. Pat won the Club's Best & Fairest in 1970/71 and 1971/72. He won the Nichols Medal in 1971/72 and 1972/73, and coached the club in 1972/73. Bob McKenzie played for Waratahs in 1972/73 and 1973/74, and won the club's Best & Fairest in both seasons. Glenn Middlemiss played for Wanderers in 1976/77 and 1979/80, Colin Hounsell played for Nightcliff in 1979/80, Bill Bennett played for St Marys from 1977/78 to 1980/81, and coached Nightcliff in 1981/82 and 1982/83. He won the Nichols Medal in 1977/78. Damien Christensen played for St Marys from 1984/85 to 1985/86. Damien won the Nichols Medal in 1985/86. Marty Christensen started playing for St Marys in 1993/94, and Mark Jackson had a few games with Waratahs in 1992/93.

A number of players from WAFL and SANFL clubs have spent time with NTFL clubs before breaking into the AFL competition. They are:

Player	NTFL	WAFL/SANFL	AFL
Alex Ishchenko	Nightcliff	East Perth	West Coast Eagles/Brisbane Bears/Nth Melbourne
Troy Ugle	Wanderers	Swan Districts	West Coast Eagles
David Bain	Waratahs	East Perth	Brisbane Bears
Allen Jakovich	Sthn Dist	Sth Fremantle	Melbourne
Martin Leslie	Waratahs	Port Adelaide	Brisbane Bears
Eddie Hocking	Wanderers	Central Dist	Adelaide Crows

WAFL and SANFL players who had stints with NTFL clubs and left lasting impressions with supporters are as follows:

Player	WAFL	NTFL
Russell Sparkes	East Fremantle	North Darwin
Gerard Neesham	Claremont	Saint Marys
Wayne Delmenico	South Fremantle	North Darwin
Steve Hargraves	East Perth	North Darwin
Peter Munro	Subiaco	North Darwin
Grant Boucher	Claremont	North Darwin
Trevor Sutton	Claremont/East Fremantle	Nightcliff
Phil Brown	Subiaco	North Darwin

Note - After coaching Claremont to a number of WAFL Premierships Gerard Neesham was appointed first coach of new AFL club Fremantle Dockers in 1995.

Player	SANFL	NTFL
Peter Hofner	Port Adelaide	Nightcliff
Geoff Morris	West Adelaide	Wanderers
Bob Butcher	South Adelaide	St Marys
John Cloonan	South Adelaide	St Marys

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Player	SANFL	NTFL
Ian Wallace	West Torrens	North Darwin
Greg Turbill	Norwood	Nightcliff
Danny Jenkins	Norwood	North Darwin
Dean Ottens	Sturt	Waratahs
Bob Haines	Norwood	Waratahs
Colin MacVicar	Woodville	Waratahs
Arch Wilkie	North Adelaide	Waratahs
Keith Pattinson	Glenelg	Nightcliff
Lee Robson	West Torrens	North Darwin
Mike Daly	Norwood	Waratahs

Former VFL, WAFL and SANFL players who gave serviceable games to their NTFL clubs and have decided to call Darwin home are Norm Watson from Hawthorn to Nightcliff, Tony Dragan from West Perth to Nightcliff, Tom Thorne from Swan Districts and West Adelaide to Darwin and Wanderers, Gary Smart from Woodville to Waratahs. Tom Sandery from North Adelaide to Waratahs, Michael Graham from Sturt to St Marys, Chris Moyle from Glenelg to Darwin, and Robin Kidney from Glenelg to Nightcliff.

The presence of the above AFL/VFL, WAFL and SANFL players, plus numerous players from other southern competitions such as Country Leagues, Amateurs and VFA in the NTFL competition has contributed to improving the standard of Darwin football.

1987 NT Superules Team

Back Row - A Panaluna, B Clark, D Simpson. M Graham, H Rooding (Umpire)

Third Row - J Dillon, A Irwin, K Firtzgerald. N White, J Greenoff, B Simmons, R Buckley, G Butler (Trainer) Second Row - A Goody (Umpire), T Quinn, G Ebert, R McGorman, D Kelly, K Truslove, P Goodrem, J McAdam (Trainer), T Street (Team Manager)

Front Row - B Valadares, B Winter, B Moroney (President), B Sykes (Captain/Coach). L Norrish (Vice Captain), F Babui. B Forssman
Inset - K Andrew, P Ellis, M Pethick, L Bradshaw

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9. INFLUENCE OF COACHES EX SOUTHERN LEAGUE PLAYERS

The standard of football played in the NTFL competition has improved over the years, and this improvement can be attributed to some degree to the influence of former players from the southern leagues or other southern competitions who have coached NTFL teams since the 1950's.

Coaches like Neil Davies, Bill Lunney, Jack Larcombe, Aldo Rossetto, Tony Shaw, Bob Elix, Ian Smith, Ray Buckley and John Taylor will leave lasting impressions with the clubs and players they have coached. Each had their own style and method of coaching, and have won at least one Premiership and a number of Finals placings with their particular NTFL club.

The coaches are listed in chronological order and brief resumes of each coach are as follows:

Neil Davies was Captain/Coach of Saint Marys for one season only in 1955/56, when the club won one of its 18 Premierships. Neil completed the double for the club by winning the Nichols Medal. He was accidentally discovered by a St Marys official watching the Darwin Show Gift, a professional foot race which Neil won from Buffaloe speedster Ron Cooper Sr. Neil was on a holiday in the NT following a clearance disagreement between his SANFL club Glenelg and VFL club Richmond.

Neil had played for Glenelg where he won the club's Best & Fairest in 1953, and was runner-up in the Magarey Medal in the same year. He also played state football for South Australia and was selected in the 1953 All Australian team. He played two games for Richmond in 1955, before having his holiday whilst Glenelg and Richmond battled over his services. Glenelg apparently retained his services, and he returned to the club where he was Captain/Coach in 1958 and 1959. A ruckman who had speed to burn, Neil Davies was regarded as one of the best footballers to have played in the NTFL.

Bill Lunney was appointed Captain/Coach of Works and Housing (now Nightcliff) for the 1956/ 57 and 1957/58 seasons. Bill transferred to Darwin with the Royal Australian Navy, which he served as a Physical Training Instructor. He was strict on discipline and physical fitness, and these strong points in his coaching enabled him to mould together a mixed team of eager youngsters, RAAF and Navy players, a few senior local players, and a couple of veterans in Leo Pon and Percy Scorer into a Premiership combination.

Works and Housing won the Premiership in 1956/57 and were Runners-up in 1957/58. Bill had tremendous influence over the younger players in their quest for football stardom, and this influence had some bearing on Nichols Medal winners Harold Muir, Joe Bonson (twice) and Benny Lew Fatt. Unfortunately for the Works and Housing Club, Bill Lunney was transferred south at the end of his two year posting to Darwin.

Jack Larcombe was a former West Perth ruckman and a Western Australian State player who transferred to Darwin with the Commonwealth Public Service. He had finished his playing career when he was appointed Coach of Wanderers in 1957/58. Jack coached Wanderers for four seasons winning the Premiership in 1957/58, finishing 4th in 1958/59, 3rd in 1959/60 and 5th in 1964/65.

Jack had inherited a team comprising a good percentage of full-blood Aboriginals who were stars in their own right. Players like Bruce Potts, Ginger Boy, Albert and Peter Marrego, John White

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and Ted Cooper who played a brand of magical but individual football. Under Jack's leadership, the players began playing team football, which resulted in finals appearances for the club in six consecutive seasons from 1957/58. Jack also had a big influence on the football careers of Nichols Medal winners Peter Marrego and Ted Cooper (twice). Jack retired from coaching after the 1964/ 65 season, and is now living in the Darwin rural area where he has a mango farm.

Aldo Rossetto arrived in Darwin from Adelaide in November 1966 to start a business 'Rossettos Sports' which recently celebrated it's 27th Anniversary. The business is now owned and operated by his friend and former partner Bob Elix.

Aldo was appointed Coach of Darwin for three seasons from 1967/68 to 1969/70 (Playing Coach for 67/68 and 68/69, and Captain/Coach for 69/70), and a further season in 1973/74. He had instant success when the Darwin team went through the 1967/68 season undefeated and won the first of four consecutive Premierships for the club. The 1973/74 team finished third. Aldo then coached Wanderers in 1974/75 (Fifth) and St Marys to a Premiership in 1978/79 and Fifth in 1979/80.

Prior to leaving Adelaide, Aldo had a successful football career in the SANFL, where he played either Centre or Centre Half Forward for West Adelaide from 1952 to 1961. He won the SANFL Under-19 Best & Fairest in 1951, and followed this up with the club's Senior Best & Fairest in 1956. Aldo played under one of the SANFL's better known coaches of the time in Jack Oatey, and one of his team-mates was Nell Kerley who went on to become a leading coach in the SANFL.

Aldo is still a resident of Darwin and is kept busy with his sports distribution business.

Tony Shaw transferred in his job with IAC Finance from Adelaide to Darwin in 1969. Prior to leaving Adelaide Tony had played 102 League games in nine seasons with South Adelaide, and was a member of the club's 1964 Premiership team. Nell Kerley was the Captain/ Coach of the team and the Territory's David Kantilla was one of South Adelaide's match winners in the Grand Final. Tony made the SANFL State squad in 1964, and represented South Australia in the YCW versus Victoria interstate matches for three years.

On arrival in 1969, Tony joined St

Marys and played in the 1969/70 team coached by Bob Butcher which finished Runners-up to Darwin. Tony was a specialist back pocket player, having

An aggressive Tony Shaw in action whilst playing in South Adelaide's 1964 Premiership team. Tony's significant contribution to Northern Territory football and his strong support in making this book possible made him an ideal choice to write the "foreword" for the book.

played in that position during his nine seasons with South Adelaide. He was appointed Captain/Coach of St Marys for the 1970/71 and 1971/72, seasons and Coach for one season in 1975/76, winning a Premiership in 1971/72, finishing Second in 1970/71, and Third in 1975/76.

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Like a number of his former SANFL mentors, Tony accepted the challenge of coaching other clubs in the NTFL. He coached Nightcliff in 1972/73 (Fourth), 1973/74 (Runners-Up) and 1976/77 (Fifth). His coaching commitments included North Darwin in 1977/78 (Runners-Up) and 1978/ 79 (Third), and finally Waratahs in 1981/82 (Fifth). The 1973/74 Nightcliff team played in one of the most exciting and close Grand Finals in the NTFL' s history, with Waratahs winning by three points right on the final siren. Tony was also active in the development of junior footballers and introduced coaching clinics to primary schools.

In representative games, Tony coached the NTFL against South Fremantle in 1973, and gained immense satisfaction from steering the NTFL team in their historic win against the Queensland Australian Football Leagues State team in Brisbane in 1974.

Tony is still a resident of Darwin and is the Managing Director of Bridge Autos. He was President of the NTFL from 1987/88 to 1993/94, and was the major facilitator (with Mike Crawshaw, General Manager) in the NTFL move to Football Park Marrara. He was elected N.T.F.L President in 1997/98 and elected for the N.T.F.L Board in 1998/99.

Bob Elix arrived in Darwin in June 1969 after breaking his leg in his last game with Port Adelaide on Anzac Day 1969. He was transferred in his job with the New Zealand Insurance Company, which he later left to join Aldo Rossetto in his sporting goods business. Bob played as a halfback flanker in his five seasons with Port Adelaide, and was a member of the club's 1965 Premiership team. The coach of the Premiership team was the legendary Fos Williams, and Bob's team-mates included Geoff Motley and John Cahill, both of whom had stints as Coach of the club.

Bob was appointed captain/Coach of Darwin for the 1970/71 season, and led the club to it's fourth consecutive Premiership, the other three being under the leadership of Aldo Rossetto. After the one season with Darwin, Bob coached Waratahs in 1971/72 (Third) and 1972/73 (Third), and a Premiership in 1976/77. The 1976/77 Grand Final had a royal flavour with Her Majesty the Queen a guest of the NTFL and arriving at Gardens Oval wearing a red and white outfit. Bob went on to coach Nightcliff in 1977/78 (Third), 1978/79 (Runners-up) and 1980/81 (Fifth).

Very much a permanent resident of Darwin, Bob has a fairly hectic schedule running his sporting goods business, serving as an Alderman and Deputy Mayor in the Darwin City Council, and Vice Chairperson of the Darwin Turf Club. He has also found time to coach the University team in the NTFA Sunday competition (1993/94, 1994/95, 1995/96, 1996/97 and 1997/98 Premiers).

Ian Smith was still an active footballer when he arrived in Darwin in June 1973 to open a branch for his Western Australian Quantity Surveying Company. He played all of his junior football with WAFL club Claremont from 1967 to 1969 up to Under- 19 level, and although he did not play at League level, he made the Senior squad with Claremont and West Perth. He transferred to the Amateur Competition and represented WA Amateurs in 1971 and 1972.

Ian was appointed Captain/Coach of North Darwin in 1973/74 when the club was at its lowest ebb, finishing Wooden Spooners for the second consecutive season. Following the resumption of the competition in 1975/76 after Cyclone Tracy, he was re-appointed Captain/Coach for one season, and set about establishing North Darwin as a competitive unit by recruiting good quality local and southern players. Playing as a centreman Ian led by example with his tenacious and courageous play. He was a member of the NT Representative team, which played the Australian Amateurs in 1979.

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Following a break of three seasons from coaching North Darwin when the club teams were coached by Alan Collier and Tony Shaw. Ian took over the reigns as Club Coach for 1979/80, 1980/81, 1981/82 and 1986/87.

During the period Ian was Club Coach, North Darwin followed it's Wooden Spoon in 1973/74 with Runners-up in 1975/76 and 1979/80, Premiers in 1980/81, and Sixth in 1981/82 and 1986/87. Ian also coached Darwin in 1983/84 (Runners-up), 1988/89 (Premiers), 1989/90 (Runners-up), 1990/91 (Runners-up) and 1992/93 (Fifth). In 1990, he was appointed Coach of the NTFL Representative teams, which played AFL clubs St Kilda and Essendon.

Ian has his own business, and can be regarded as a permanent Darwin resident especially as he has lived here since June 1973.

Ray Buckley transferred to Darwin from Adelaide in September 1976 with his job in the Commonwealth Valuer Generals Office, where he was employed as a Valuer. Ray was still playing as a Ruckman or in key positions from Fullback to Full forward when he arrived, having made the 1976 All Australian Amateur team. He played all his junior football with Woodville, and is a Player Life Member of Woodville and the SANFL. He was associated with Woodville from 1964 to 1974, played 76 League games and won the Woodville Reserves Best & Fairest in 1973.

Prior to his transfer in 1976, Ray had been on temporary secondment to Darwin on a number of occasions from September 1974, and played a number of games with Nightcliff. Ray was appointed Captain/Coach of St Marys for the 1976/77 (Runners-up) and 1977/78 (Premiers) seasons and Coach for 1980/81 (Third). Ray also coached Southern Districts in 1989/90 (3rd) and 1990/91 (5th). Following a spell of coaching Nightcliff Under-16's in 1991/92 and 1992/93 Ray was appointed Coach of Nightcliff Seniors for 1993/94.

Other coaching appointments included Port Districts (SA Amateurs), Morningside (QAFL) and West Canberra (ACT). Ray was an inaugural member of the NT Superules, 1983 and 1986 All Australian Superules, and 1984 All Australian Superules Coach when the NT won the Australian title in Darwin.

Ray is the current President of the NTFL. He is a Principal with real estate agents Colliers Jardine and regards himself as a Darwinite. His son Nathan has made football headlines news as a much sought after player who joined Collingwood in 1994 after one season with Brisbane Bears. A short resume on Nathan appears in an earlier chapter of this book. He resigned from N.T.F.L President on the 9/12/96.

John Taylor arrived in Darwin in March 1983 on transfer from Melbourne with the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Training. John played in the centre and was Captain of Geelong Under-19's in 1970. He then played as a Ruck/Rover or Rover for Geelong West in the VFA from 1972 to 1975 and 1979, and was a member of the club's 1972 and 1975 Grand Final teams. John played five seasons with Geelong West, which had one of Geelong's former top players in Billy Goggin as Coach. From 1976 to 1978, he coached St Peters in the Geelong football League and coached the same team, which had been relegated to the Geelong and District Football League from 1980 to 1982, winning a Premiership in 1981.

In both 1994 and 1996 he was named the Department of Sport and Recreation Coach of the Year.

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John was appointed Coach of St Marys in 1983/84 and has started a Club record 12th season as Coach in 1994/95. During his 12 completed seasons as Club Coach, St Marys have won ten Premierships, including a record breaking five consecutive Premierships from 1983/84 to 1987/ 88, and three consecutive Premierships from 1989/90 to 1991/92. The club finished third in 1988/ 89 and were Runners-up in 1992/93.

In representative games, John coached the NT Bicentennial side, which won the NAFC Second Division Championship in 1988. The NT defeated Tasmania, Australian Amateurs and the VFA in the Finals. He also coached the NTFL Team in Australia Day and other Representative matches against Glenelg (1985), Essendon (1986, 1989 and 1994), Sydney Swans (1987), North Melbourne (1988), Port Adelaide (1989), Hawthorn (1991), Geelong (1992), Melbourne (1993), Fremantle Dockers (1995) and the ACT in May 1995. Port Adelaide 2001.

Of the nine Coaches whose careers are the subject of this chapter, the first three who arrived in the mid 1950's had reasonably short stints of coaching NTFL teams. The remaining six who started arriving from the mid 1960's had quite lengthy coaching periods. Aldo Rossetto coached for seven seasons, Tony Shaw for nine seasons, Bob Elix for seven seasons, Ian Smith for eleven seasons, Ray Buckley for seven seasons, and John Taylor for twelve seasons. The experiences gained by all nine coaches from their southern competitions would, as mentioned in the earlier part of this chapter, have contributed to the improvement in the standard of NTFL football.

NTFL Team which defeated VFA in Melbourne (Victoria Park) in April 1994

Back - T Shaw (NTFL Pres), M West, A Collard, A Kerinaua, B Stanislaus, S Turner, M Christensen, D Perry, S Shewring, S Chisholm, R Ah Mat

Middle - F Ah Mat, H Johns, P Atkinson, A McLeod, D Dunn, K Quail, J Jones, K Howe, P McGann, J Cockatoo, J Taylor (Coach), S Knight (Physio), G Skewes (Trainer)

Front - C Kariolas (Team/Man), C Wall, W Rioli, R Jeffrey (c), M Athanasiou, E Cubillo, C Widdowson

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10. PERSONALITIES/CHARACTERS/FAMILIES

A book on the game of Australian Rules football in Darwin could not be written without mentioning the personalities, characters and families who have been associated with the game over the years.

PERSONALITIES

When discussions around football circles centre on persons who have made significant contributions to Australian football in Darwin, the names, which invariably crop up are Nichols, Harrison, Ludwig, Window, Atkinson and Crawshaw.

Joseph Wesley Nichols arrived in Darwin from Melbourne to take up a position as Police Clerk in 1922. He spent over thirty years in Darwin in a number of positions (28 statutory or official roles) ranging from Clerk and Bailiff to the Local Court, Clerk of the Supreme Court, Sheriff, Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages of Courts, and Registrar General before retiring to Alice Springs in 1955. His retirement was not a leisurely one as he was asked by the Government to conduct a Post Office at his home in Undoolya Road, East Side. In addition he continued to serve as a Special Magistrate.

During his period of residence in Darwin, Joseph W Nichols played football for Rovers in the 1925/26 season, became Secretary Of the Club in 1926/27, and when Rovers were replaced by Magpies in 1927/28, took on the job of Secretary and League delegate for the Magpies club. He served as NTFL Secretary for 10 seasons from 1932/33 to 1941/42, and NTFL President for five seasons from 1948/49 to 1952/53.

In recognition of his services to football, the former President's Medal for the Best & Fairest player in the NTFL was re-named the Nichols Medal from the 1948/49 season. Mr Nichols was also presented with a Silver Tray for services to football by the NTFL in 1954.

His contribution to Australian football was not confined to Darwin and the NTFL. In the late 1940's during a period of temporary transfer in his Government position to Alice Springs, he became the inaugural President of the Central Australian Football League, a position he held for two years 1947 and 1948, before returning to Darwin with his employment. He was appointed Patron of the CAFL from 1949 to 1958, and had the unique distinction of being Patron of the CAFL and President of the NTFL over the same period 1948 to 1953.

Joseph W Nichols was truly a well known and respected Territorian who held numerous positions in a number of organisations. He was Honary Secretary of the RSL in Darwin and was a Life Member of both the Darwin and Alice Springs Branches. He was awarded Life Membership of the NTFL, and was honoured with an MBE for services to the community in 1964. He died in Alice Springs in 1968.

Hunter Harrison took up his appointment as Assistant Director of the Commonwealth Department of Health in Darwin in March 1961. Prior to his arrival in the Territory, he had spent 12 months in Canberra and 10 years in Port Moresby, where he was heavily involved in sports administration covering a number of sports including tennis, golf, rugby league and

Australian Rules football. His main achievement was starting off Australian Rules football in Papua/New Guinea.

On his arrival in Darwin in 1961, Hunter became associated with the NTFL initially as a member of the Disciplinary Tribunal, where he had a reputation for handing out heavy penalties. He was appointed Vice President of the NTFL in 1962 and President in 1964/65, during which he negotiated the visit of Footscray and VFL player Ray Walker. This produced an intensive period of clinics for five weeks which prepared the way for a primary schools competition in 1965.

Due to work pressures Hunter, stood down from official NTFL positions in 1965/66 but remained as an elder statesman, serving on delegations and preparing submissions. During this period, he joined Jack Larcombe and John Ravenscroft in fencing, clearing and levelling the Fannie Bay oval out of the then Fannie Bay wilderness. After realising the NTFL would not be able to meet the covenant, the ground was surrendered to the council for \$8 000, something less than half the value of work done.

Hunter was appointed NTFL President in 1969/70, and served until 1976/77 when heart problems indicated retirement. In 1971, he commenced negotiations with the National Secondary Schools Council for admission of the Northern Territory to the national competition. Although finally achieved in 1973, problems with the local schools association delayed entry until 1974. He also successfully negotiated with the Queensland League for an interstate match in Brisbane, which started the NT on a winning note in Representative Football.

After an absolutely sensational start to the 1974/75 season, Cyclone Tracy treated football as badly as everyone else in Darwin. The normal season had to be suspended and an interim Darwin Football Association was founded to maintain interest and public morale. Hunter was elected President of the Association. He was also involved in 1975 with the commencement of negotiations for the entry of an NT Primary Schools team in National Exchanges.

Ill health continued in 1978/79 and Hunter was invalided from the Public Service in 1979. An improvement in health in 1980 resulted in re-election as NTFL President. During Hunter's absence successful negotiations for entry to the National Australian Football Council was finalized by the NTFL. Strong Government support was secured and the affiliation as a full voting member was accomplished. Hunter was appointed as NT Delegate to the NAFC.

In 1983, Hunter commenced negotiations with the NT Government in relation with their wish for the NTFL to relocate to Marrara. In 1984, he underwent successful open heart surgery and in 1985 was elected by Queensland, NSW, ACT, Tasmania and Aust Amateurs to represent them on the Executive and Finance Committee of the National Council. Also at this time, Hunter successfully negotiated restructure of the NTFL with constituent clubs.

Hunter did not seek re-appointment as President after completing another seven seasons at the end of the 1986/87 season. However, he was elected Vice President of the restructured National Australian Football Council in 1988. During his period on the National Council, he was significantly involved in enhancing the status of the TEAL Cup, the Junior Football Council and the role of the so-called minor states in the national scene.

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Tributes paid to Hunter for his services to football include NTFL Life Membership in 1971, Merit Award National Football Council in 1972, Queens Jubilee Medal in 1977, naming of Hunter Harrison Stand Gardens Oval in 1979, MBE in 1980, Life Membership National Football Council in 1990, and naming of TEAL Cup Second Division Best & Fairest Hunter Harrison Medal in 1992.

Since his retirement from the Public Service in 1979, Hunter has managed to contribute significantly to community affairs as well as the NTFL. He has earned his proper leisurely retirement at Noosa Heads in Queensland, where he is now taking things easy with wife Pam.

The St Marys Football Club has amongst its many impressive records the longest serving President in the NTFL in **Victor Samuel Ludwig**, who has continually served in the position since he was elected in 1963. Vic's 40 years as Club President would probably be hard to beat in any other football league in Australia.

Like a number of present day NTFL and AFL Club Presidents, Vic joined the club administration ranks after having a stint as a player for the club. He was also an umpire in the NTFL from 1958/59 to 1960/61.

In 1982, Vic became an NTFL Delegate to the National Australian Football Council, and he has been a member of NTFL Standing Committees for several years notably the Umpires Liaison Committee plus many ad hoc committees. He has been prominent in the development of juniors and it is significant that a large number of Territory players who have gained interstate recognition commenced their careers with St Marys.

The success of any sporting club, especially football clubs, is dependent on a stable and hard working administration. Vic's leadership has obviously rubbed off on his many committees over the past 30 years, as St Mary's success both on and off the field is reflected in the number of Premierships the club has won in all grades, and the impressive club house situated in the Marrara Football complex.

Vic's contribution to Australian Rules football in the Territory has been considerable and justly recognised with Life Membership of the NTFL and Merit Award from the National Australian Football Council. Vic and his wife Sadie are 'true blue' Territorians, especially Sadie whose father Jack McGuinness was one of four brothers who played for Buffaloes in the 1930's and 1940's.

In 1972, a football dynamo named **Darryl Window** arrived on the Darwin scene. After four seasons with Wanderers (Captain in 1974) his playing career was stopped short in 1976 by a crippling knee injury. Darryl became the NTFL Secretary in 1977, starting a record breaking 22 years as an NTFL official.

Darryl was a major contributor in the development of the NTFL from a country league to a league accepted and recognised at National level, in particular membership of the National Australian Football Council, regular visits by VFL/SANFL/AFL teams to play NT Representative sides and the ultimate recognition of the NTFL winning the Second Division Bi-Centennial NAFC Carnival in Adelaide in 1988.

Darryl was NTFL Chairman of Selectors for Representative teams from 1979 to 1994, awarded Life Membership in 1984, and received NAFC recognition in 1991 when accepting the NAFC Certificate of Merit for outstanding services to football.

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A tireless worker, Darryl's incredible enthusiasm often saw him at Gardens Oval/Football Park at 5.00 am each morning. As an administrator, Darryl is certainly entitled to be named 'Mr. Football' in the NT, his crowning glory being the co-coordinator of the highly successful Aboriginal All-Stars v Collingwood game in 1992.

The achievements of the NT Junior Footballers have been incredible, when considering the NT's population and the fact that a big percentage of the NT's football competitions are played out of season to the southern states. **Peter Atkinson** has been the anchor man for this development and his dedication and countless hours of planning, coaching, reporting and administering has earned him (and the Territory) national recognition and accolades.

Moving to the NT from South Australia in 1973, Peter became the first local field umpire to officiate an NTFL Grand Final (1973/74), after seven seasons of Grand Finals being umpired by VFL and SANFL field umpires.
Life Member 1997 Australian Secondary Schools.

In 1975, Peter moved into club administration and coaching with St Marys Football Club. A club coach at every level except Reserves, Peter took 11 St Marys teams into Grand Finals, winning seven, but more importantly, was effective in establishing a level of discipline and strategies which complemented the skill level, flair and athleticism at one of Australia's most successful football and sporting clubs.
Coach of the Year 1991 N.T Sports Awards.

Since 1980, Peter has coached NT Representative sides in Primary and Secondary Schoolboys and TEAL Cup, and was named Assistant All-Australian Under-17 Coach in 1987 and 1991.

1996 saw Peter reach his 100th game as an N.T Representative Coach

Peter currently holds dual positions of General Manager, NTFL and General Manager/State Coaching Director, NT Football Development Foundation. His significant contribution to NT football has been recognised by an NAFC Merit Award which he received in 1991.

Peter was awarded N.T.F.L Life Membership in 1995. P.C Atkinson Rising Star Award was initiated in 1995/96.

In 1987, Mike Crawshaw was appointed NTFL General Manager and immediately preceded to improve the professionalism of the League's operations. During Mike's six years as General Manager, he built an excellent repertoire with sponsors and after successfully overseeing the move from Gardens Oval to Football Park, the league's financial turnover increased from \$375 000 to \$1 430 000.

Mike was a club stalwart for the Nightcliff Football Club where he played league football in the 1970's, became an active member of the club committee, and was Club President from 1984/85 to 1985/86.

CHARACTERS

All State Football Leagues have their so-called characters of the game who are generally one-eyed club supporters. The best-known characters of the VFL are the Collingwood ladies with umbrellas, who use to frighten off opposition club supporters in the outer with their brandishing umbrellas and verbal abuse.

General consensus amongst NTFL patrons is that they had three lady supporters who would have held their own with the Collingwood ladies. The first is Rowena Stroude who made her presence

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felt in the early 1970's, and the second is Mabel Griffen, who ruled the roost in the early 1980's. Another character is Waratahs stalwart Cathie Nickels.

Rowena Stroude was a Buffaloe supporter who always sat behind the goal posts at the Darwin High School end of Gardens Oval. As mentioned earlier in this book, Gardens Oval was a nightmare for goal umpires, especially when St Marys played Darwin Buffaloes. St Marys supporters always took over the city end of the oval, and the Darwin Buffaloes supporters made the Darwin High School end their domain. As a result, the goal umpires would cop an earful from Saint's supporters for one half of the game, and then have to put up with the Buff supporters for the other half!

During one of these St Marys/Darwin games in the 1972/73 season, one of the goal umpires, who happened to be Chinese, had given a close scoring decision against Darwin/Buffaloes. Before the goal umpire had finished waving his flag, a loud booming voice roared from right behind his right ear 'you one-eyed slanty eye Chinaman! That was a goal. Why don't you put on your glasses then you would be a four-eyed slanty eye Chinaman!' This loud abuse would go on for the whole of the half whenever scoring decisions were seen to be given against her team.

After the match, Rowena would go up to the goal umpire, whom she knew, and say 'Sorry luv. I hope I didn't embarrass you too much with my barracking. The other buggers (field and boundary umpires) keep running away before I can give them an ear-full. As you and your mate (the other goal umpire) must stay in the goal square, you both have to cop it if I reckon our players don't get a fair go'. She would always finish off with pleasantries like 'anyway, how's your sister Peg?'

Mabel Griffen took over from Rowena Stroude as the most vocal and abusive club supporter in the early 1980's. Her domain was just outside the boundary between the Hunter Harrison stand and the timekeeper's box. She was a one-eyed Nightcliff supporter whose booming voice shook umpires and opposing players alike whenever she thought her Tiger players were hard done by.

Mabel's husband Frank was a Nightcliff stalwart who has given many years service to the club in a number of positions from committee member to President. He was a relatively quiet person who would discreetly move away from Mabel whenever she went into an abusive barracking mode.

The umpiring fraternity thought her barracking was so outrageous they decided they would try to win her over by inviting her as a guest speaker to their Black Sox Luncheon. The luncheon is held annually at a leading hotel on the Friday before the Grand Final. Mabel was a hit at the luncheon and didn't pull any punches with her speech.

The umpires' effort to win Mabel over was in vain, as she was back to her barracking best in later matches. She even bailed up Les Bailey after he had umpired a Nightcliff/Waratahs match at Waratah Oval. Les had threatened to report Mabel for abusive language, so after the match she stopped him as he was coming off the ground and offered him a pair of glasses for being a blind umpire who couldn't see past his nose!

Mabel's tragic death on the Sunday after the St Marys/Nightcliff Grand Final in March 1986 shocked Nightcliff supporters and the football public to such an extent that her loss and support of the club she revered is still talked about by the football fraternity. The Mabel Griffen scoreboard at Nightcliff Oval was named in her honour.

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Cathie Nickels, affectionately known as Auntie Cathie, has been a true Waratah for well over 40 years. Cathie was the first female secretary for a football club within the NTFL and continued this position for over 15 years. She set a precedent for being a timekeeper - acting as club timekeeper, NTFL timekeeper and timekeeper for the Umpires Carnival. Cathie is also the mother confessor to a number of the club's younger players.

Her family comprises of her mother, sister and three brothers, who like Cathie are Life Members of the Waratahs Football Club.

Outside of football, Cathie has served on the organising committee for the NT Secondary Schools Sports Council and Teal Cup. Her involvement included being convenor and billeting officer for competitions held in Darwin. She also served as Manager for the Casuarina Secondary College sports teams for over 18 years.

Cathie's Superules involvement consisted of being the 'secret weapon' for the NT, with her organisation of social events taking place before the big game, and naturally the southerners were hot and bothered so lost to the big guns of the NT. Elected Inaugural Female Life Membership of N.T.F.L in 1996.

FAMILIES

The NTFL has a number of family teams, the most prominent being the Darwin Football Club whose connections of families would be hard to beat by any other football club in Australia. The present Darwin senior team includes young players whose fathers, grandfathers and great grandfathers have played for the club when it was known as Vestseys, then Buffaloes and now Darwin.

Three main names come to mind when the early footballers are mentioned - Cooper, Ah Mat and Bonson. Others include McGuinness, Angeles, Damaso, Lew Fatt, Butler, Muir and Shape.

As mentioned in the Beginnings Chapter of this book, Rueben Cooper was the first colored person to play football in Darwin. Rueben returned from South Australia in 1916, was a foundation member of the Waratahs Club, and after one season with the club transferred to the Vestseys Club. He won the NTFL Best & Fairest Player award in 1921/22.

Rueben married Sally Ah Mat whose brothers William, John, All and Ankin were also Buffaloe players. Rueben had one son Ron and four daughters Ruby, Dawn, Lorna and Josephine. Ron was a Buffaloe star in the 1940's and 1950's as well as a champion foot runner. His six sons Rueben, Joe, Ron Jr, Robert, Dennis and John all played for Buffaloes/Darwin in the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's. On the male side of the Cooper family, old Rueben's son and grandsons all played for Darwin/Buffaloes.

Three of Rueben's daughters married footballers. Dawn married Peter Cardona who was a Wanderers footballer. Their daughter Joy is the longest serving female goal umpire in the NTFL. Lorna married Steve Abala who was a Buffaloe star in the 1940's and 1950's, and a Nichols Medallist in 1950/51. Their daughter Therese married Buffaloe player Eddie Clark, whilst son Steve Jr also played for Buffaloes and coached Wanderers to two Premierships. Josephine married Frank Perez who was a Buffaloe

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stalwart and team-mate of Steve Abala Sr. Although Ruby's husband Clive Dowling was not a footballer, their son John played for Buffaloes and Nightcliff in the 1950's and 1960's. John and his wife June have been tireless workers for the Nightcliff Football club.

William 'Put' Ah Mat was also amongst the first footballers to play for the then Vestey's/ Buffaloes club and continued playing into the 1930's. He had a son Ali and daughter Sophie. All Ah Mats played for Buffaloes in the 1940's and 1950's. Ali's daughter Sophie married Buffaloe player Dennis Stokes and two of their four sons Steven and Peter are members of Darwin's 1993/ 94 senior team. Steven was a Nichols Medallist in 1987/88.

/ Put Ah Mat's daughter Sophie married a non-footballer in Eric Petterson. Four of their five sons played junior football for Darwin. One of their two daughters Yvonne married a non footballer, whilst Marie's husband Jock McLeod had previously played football in Victoria before joining Buffaloes in the 1960's. Jock and Marie's eldest son Johnathan is a current senior Darwin player. Younger son Andrew played senior football with Darwin, had one season with Port Adelaide in 1994, and is now a regular player with the Adelaide Crows.

John 'Nugget' Ah Mat, the younger brother of Put was also a Buffaloe player in the 1930' s. Four of his five sons John Mayo, Frank, William and George Ah Mat played for Buffaloes in the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's. William or 'Nunga' also coached Buffaloes/Darwin in the 1970' s and 1980' s, whilst George also played for Waratahs. Nunga' s sons Matthew and John, and Frank' s son Robbie were members of Darwin' s 1993/94 senior team. Matthew was recruited by Sydney Swans (AFL) for 1994, and previously played for Brisbane Bears mainly in the Reserves. Robbie was recruited by Collingwood for 1995, and after good performances in the Reserves played three league games.

The Ah Mat family has been honoured with the naming of the Ah Mat gates at Football Park Marrara.

Don Bonson was a Buffaloes champion in the 1930's, playing mainly at Centre HalfBack or Full Back. He played in the club's Premiership teams in 1931/32, 1933/34 and 1934/35, and won the NTFL Best & Fairest award in 1931/32 and 1935/36. Don helped form Wallabies Football club, which he captained in the 1935/36 Grand Final. He was also Buffaloes Captain and Vice-Captain under Put Ah Mat.

Don married Patricia Ah Mat, sister of Put and Nugget, and Sally Cooper in 1935. They raised five sons Don Jr, Joe, John, Robert and Ken, and seven daughters Gwen, Patricia, Betsy, Lynette, Dorothy, Leah and Marie. Four of the boys Don, Joe, John and Robert played football for Works and Housing/Nightcliff, whilst Ken played for both Nightcliff and Darwin. Don Jr's sons 'Dookie' and Greg played senior football for Darwin in the 1980's. Joe was a dual Nichols Medallist, and Ken won the Nichols Medal in 1970/71. Two daughters married footballers. Dorothy's husband Alan Oates played for Nightcliff in the 1970's, and Marie's husband Peter Balch played Reserves for Darwin and Wanderers before becoming a field umpire in the NTFL and NTFA.

NTFL Life Membership was awarded to Don in 1940, and he was also a Life Member of the Darwin Football Club. The football fraternity suffered a double loss in 1993 with the deaths of Patricia Bonson in May, and Don in October. The naming of the Bonson gates at Marrara Football Park will ensure that one of Darwin's best-known football personalities will never be forgotten.

As shown in the preceding profiles, the Coopers, Ah Mats and Bonsons were the major families

History of the NTFL

Buffaloes Football Club - Runners-up 1929/30

Back - J W Nichols, J 'Nugget' Ah Mat, A Snape, D McMillan (c), D Bonson Snr, C Snape, L Ah Mat. R Prior, D Butler, A Ah Mat, T Angeles, D Murray (Pres)

Front - Mr Davies, Arthur Wright, J Lopez, B Damaso, Andy Wright, W Lew Fatt, --, W 'Putt' Ah Mat, H Nuttall, J Sevallos, J Lee

'Oh What a Feeling' J Stokes (c), i Smith (Coach) and Long Serving Club Patron Keith Kemp hold aloft North Darwin's 1980/81 Premiership Cup

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Former NTFL President (1964/65, 1969/70. 1976/77 & 1980/81 - 1986/87) Hunter Harrison (photo courtesy of NT

News)

J W Nichols -NTFL Secretary 1932/33 - 1941/42 & NTFL
President 1946/47- 1954/55
Right - Long Serving St Marys President Vic Ludwig

receiving Nichols Medal Runner-up cheque from
Sponsors Representative Merv Paul

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of the Darwin Buffaloes Football Clubs. Other important contributors were the McGuinness brothers Barney, Jack, Joe and Val. Barney was a Buffaloes player in the 1920's and a league umpire in the 1930's. His son Vincent was also a Buffaloes player, and Vince's son Lindsay followed the family tradition before becoming a long serving West Perth star in the WAFL. Jack, Joe and Val also played for Buffaloes with Joe winning the NTFL Best & Fairest Player award in 1940/41.

Another Buffaloes player in the 1930's and 1940's was Tim Angeles. His son Jacko and grandson Geoffrey also played for the club. Other Buffaloe players from the 1930's and 1940's were Babe Damaso, Walter Lew Fatt, Dick Butler and Bill Muir. Babe Damaso's son John and grandson Basil were Buffaloe players, with Basil winning the Nichols Medal in 1976/77. Walter Lew Fatt won the NTFL Best & Fairest award in 1932/33 and 1933/34, and his sons Terry, Benny and Gympie won Nichols Medals in 1958/59, 1963/64 and 1964/65. Terry and Gympie played for Saint Marys whilst Benny played for Nightcliff. Walter's other sons played for different teams; Charlie for North Darwin, Kenny for Nightcliff, and Dennis kept the family tradition going by playing for Darwin.

Dick Butler's sons Lionel and George followed the family tradition and played for Darwin/ Buffaloes. Bill Muir became an NTFL umpire after the end of his playing days with Buffaloes, and was the Grand Final umpire in 1956/57. His six sons Harold, Bill Jun, Robert, Jamsie, Ali and Tom played for different NTFL clubs, the first three with Works and Housing/Nightcliff, and the last three with Darwin/Buffaloes. Harold and Ali were Nichols Medallists in 1956/57 and 1968/69.

The preceding paragraphs should re-affirm the claim that the Darwin Football Club would be hard to beat as the most family oriented Australian Rules club in Australia. They also give added meaning to the club song 'Old Buffaloes never die they simply fade away'.

Two other clubs, which have become family orientated, are St Marys with the Long, Rioli, Cubillo and Hill families, and Nightcliff with the Bonson, Motlop and Peris families.

North Darwin Football Club - Preliminary Finalist 1978/79

Back - A Shaw (coach), D Nason, L Robson, R Cocks, G Petrie, G Power, R Clarke, G Morris, J Thomas (Team Manager)

Middle - I Stokes, M Farmer, P Johns, M Azzopardi, G Jessup, R Wilkinson, G Boucher, S Williamson Front - W McCoy, G Davey, I Smith (c), P Belford, F Davey, J McLennon

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11. OTHER FOOTBALL CENTRES/COMPETITIONS IN THE NT

Although Darwin is the major centre for Australian football in the Northern Territory, the game has experienced considerable growth throughout the Territory since its inception in other centres and Aboriginal Communities. The introduction of three new competitions in Darwin, namely the NTFA, Superules and the experimental Dry Season competition, has also contributed to the growth of the game in the Northern Territory.

Summaries of each Football Centre/Competition are as follows:

ALICE SPRINGS - CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE (CAFL)

The CAFL first started in 1947 with three clubs Federals, Rovers and Pioneers. Since 1947, clubs came and went, and the CAFL competition now consists of five clubs: the original three plus new clubs Souths and Wests. Although some of the clubs have their own training ovals, all CAFL senior matches are played at Traeger Park.

With the installation of lights at Traeger Park during the 1993 season, the CAFL scheduled a number of night matches in the 1994 season. Unfortunately the very cold nights in the Centre resulted in poor attendances, and the CAFL has reverted to day matches.

As was the case with the Darwin competition, population growth over the years (latest census shows the population of Alice Springs as 24 862 in 1994) necessitated the introduction of additional teams. Each of the five clubs has a League, Reserves, and Under-18 team. The most successful club Premiership-wise is Pioneers with 25 Premierships.

The CAFL season runs parallel with the major southern leagues from April to September. Because of the difference in the CAFL and NTFL football seasons, it is not uncommon to see Darwin footballers playing in the Alice Springs teams during their winter months season from March to September, and Alice Springs footballers playing in the NTFL competition during Darwin's wet season from October to March.

TENNANT CREEK - BARKLY AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE (BAFL)

The BAFL is the most recent competition, which started in 1991 with five teams, Ali Curung, Elliott, Eagles, Memo and Sporties. The latter three teams are town teams, whilst Ali Curung and Elliott are Aboriginal teams from communities north and south of Tennant Creek. An Aboriginal team from the Willowra community south of Tennant Creek joined the competition in 1993. Sporties has won all four Premierships from 1991 to 1994.

Tennant Creek's population has remained fairly static over the years, and the latest census showed 3 099 in 1994. Prior to starting its own competition, Tennant Creek competed in the CAFL Reserves competition where it won Premierships in 1986, 1989 and 1990. Just to give people who do not know Tennant Creek an idea of the keenness of the town's footballers, the trip to Alice Springs by bus is five and a half hours each way.

Like the Central Australian Football League, the BAFL season runs from April to September. All matches are played on the town's Purkiss Reserve oval. Tennant Creek's climate is similar to Alice Springs in that the town has the normal four seasons of Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring.

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KATHERINE - KATHERINE DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE (KDFL)

The Katherine District Football League was established in 1988 with five clubs, Kirby's Agents, Rowlands, Tindal, Barunga and Kalano competing in the inaugural 1988/89 season. The composition of the league had a number of changes in clubs since 1988/89 with the following six teams competing in the 1994/95 season: Kirby's Agents, Tindal, Katherine South, Eastside, Ngukurr and Arnhem Crows (made up of players from the Aboriginal communities of Barunga and Beswick). Katherine South is the most successful club, having won three Premierships since the competition started.

As Katherine has the same climate as Darwin, i.e. wet season and dry season, the KDFL competition is similar to the NTFL season-wise, running from October to March.

Katherine experienced a minor population boom in the mid 1980's through its tourism expansion, and the Royal Australian Air Force resurrecting the Tindal Air Base as a major fighter squadron for the north of Australia. The town's population grew from just over 5 000 to the 1994 figure of 8 732.

Prior to establishing its own competition in 1988/89, Katherine competed as a club in the NT Football Association, winning Premierships in the inaugural 1982/83 season and 1984/85. The Katherine club then joined the NTFL Reserves competition, winning the 1985/86 and 1986/87 Premierships. It was accepted into the NTFL League competition in the 1987/88 season, and finished bottom of the ladder. Katherine by the way is a good three and a half hour's bus trip from Darwin.

NHULUNBUY - GOVE AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE (GAFL)

Essentially a mining town noted for its huge bauxite deposits, Nhulunbuy was developed by the Nabalco Mining Company in the early 1960's. It is located on the northern tip of Arnhem Land known as the Gore Peninsula, and now has a population of 3 847, which has remained static for a number of years.

The Gore Australian Football League was established in 1975 with two town teams, Cats and South Arnhem, and two teams Gopu and Djerrak comprising Aboriginals from the nearby Yirrkala community and Homelands Centres. Since the GAFL was established, Cats has won eight Premierships and South Arnhem (which changed its name to Walkabout in 1987) has won seven Premierships. Matches are played alternatively on the Nhulunbuy town oval and Yirrkala Community oval.

Although Nhulunbuy shares the same climatic conditions as Darwin, the GAFL runs a shortened competition season from August to December.

TIWI ISLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE - (TIWI FL)

The Tiwi Islands comprise two islands, Bathurst and the larger Melville, which are separated by the narrow Apsley Strait. The islands are located approximately 80 kilometres north of Darwin. The islands' population of 1 744 mostly full blood Aboriginals live in the three communities of Nguu, Milikapiti and Pirlangimpi.

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The Tiwi Islands Football League was established in 1969/70, with the inaugural competition comprising five teams, Pumarali, Tapalinga, Imalu, Tuyu and Irrimaru. The competition has grown over the years and now has eight teams, the original five teams plus new teams Taracumbie,

Warankuwu and Nguiu. Imalu is

the most successful team, having won ten Premierships since the inception of the competition.

Since 1944, Brother John Pye has been the mainstay of football on the Tiwi Islands supported by Brother Andy Howley during his absences. The current President Hyacinth Tungutalum won the prestigious ATSIC National Administrator of the Year Award for 1995.

Imalu v Irrimaru 1994/95

The competition season is similar to that of the NTFL, with the Grand

Final played on the Saturday preceding the NTFL Grand Final. 'Mr Football'. Ted Whitten, was a regular guest of the League on Grand Final day, donating the Ted Whitten Medal for Best and Fairest. His death in August 1995 deeply affected all Tiwi Islanders who had adopted Mr Football as their own.

The Grand Final has become a yearly pilgrimage for Darwinites and other Territorians who like to support the spectacular display put on by players of both teams.

The TIWI FL has progressed to the stage that it is now providing Aboriginal field umpires for most of its matches. The NT Football Development Foundation and the NTFL Umpires Association have provided assistance in this area of the game. Field umpires from the NTFL Umpires Association officiate at the Preliminary Final and Grand Final.

The Tiwi Islands has produced some marvelous footballers since 1952/53, when more than half of the inaugural Saint Marys team were Tiwi Islanders. Players like Raphael, Joe Saturinus, Edmund Johnson, Bertram Kantilla, Dermot and Jerome have headed a long list of players remembered for their football skills.

The two local footballers who became champions in the SANFL, WAFL and VFL in the 1960's, 70's and 80's, and really put the Tiwi Islands on the football map are the late David Kantilla and Maurice Rioli.

The larger Melville Island is home to Cyril Rioli Sr and Jack Long, whose sons have all played senior football for the Saint Marys club in the NTFL. Cyril's sons Sibby, Maurice, Manny, Lawrence, John, Cyril Jr and Willie played for the Green and Golds from the late 1960's. Sibby, Maurice, Cyril Jr and Willie have also played for the South Fremantle club in the WAFL, whilst Maurice will be remembered as a Richmond champion in the VFL in the 1980's. Jack Long played for St Marys in the 1970's, and his seven sons Steven, Brian, John, Chris, Noel, Michael and Patrick were among the major contributors to St Marys successes during the 1980's and 90's. An NTFL

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record was created when all seven played in the 1989/90 Preliminary Final. Michael Long is now a top player with Essendon in the AFL.

NORTHERN TERRITORY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (NTFA)

The origins of the Association came in the 1978/79 season with the formation of the NTFL C Grade competition. However, the competition did not get the full support of all NTFL clubs, and North Darwin and Wanderers were the only NTFL teams in the competition. The other teams which made up the C Grade competition were Banks and Combined Services.

The competition managed to struggle through four seasons, with Banks, Combined Services and North Darwin being the only regular teams. The 1982/83 season saw the transformation of the C Grade competition into a whole new competition, the Northern Territory Football Association of seven clubs with no NTFL affiliations making up the competition. The inaugural clubs were Banks, East Darwin, Jabiru, Katherine, Pints, Services and Southern Districts with President Phil (Bomber) Lancaster being the driving force.

Within a decade, the NTFA has grown beyond expectations, and the Association now has an A Grade competition with eight teams, and a B Grade competition with eight teams. Five clubs (Banks, Palmerston, Pints, Tracy Village and University) have A and B Grade teams. Jabiru has an A Grade team only, whilst Belyuen, Combined Services, Garden Point, Goannas and

Gunbalanya have only a B Grade team. Belyuen, Garden Point and Gunbalanya are Aboriginal community teams.

Gardens Oval has been the main venue for NTFA matches until the 1994/95 season, when the Association switched to Football Park Marrara. Games are also played at home grounds at Jabiru, Palmerston, Tracy Village and Pints Oval. Banks is the most successful club with four A Grade Premierships.

The CAFL, BAFL, KDFL, *Tiwi Islands Football League Grand Final 1993/94*
GAFL, TIWI FL and NTFA are affiliated members of the NTFL. The areas the five leagues and the NTFA cover is large and diverse in make up and operation, however through the NTFL and NT Football Development Foundation assistance, support and advice is given at every opportunity.

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

The popularity of Australian Rules football has spread to remote Aboriginal communities, with competitions at Maningrida in the northern part of the Territory, and a number of southern Territory communities forming a competition in Alice Springs.

History of the NTFL

The Maningrida Community competition was started in 1981/82, with four teams from the community and outstations. The inaugural teams were Eagles, Magpies, Baru and Seagulls. The competition has expanded over the years, and now has 10 teams including the original four plus new teams in Nakara, Sharks, Yilan, Kudjidi, Lightning and Crows. Magpies have won four Premierships, Baru and Seagulls three, and Lightning, Crows and Eagles one each.

Maningrida is an Aboriginal community situated north east of Darwin. It has a population of 997, which includes family groups living in the community's numerous homeland centres.

As the community is part of Arnhem Land, its climate is similar to the rest of the northern region of the Territory which has a wet season from October to April, and a dry season from May to September. Football is played in the wet months, and the season runs from October to March.

The Maningrida community is proud of its new oval which was opened in 1993. Lights were installed in 1994, and the local football fraternity can look forward to night football being played in the community. With assistance from the NTFL and NT Football Development Foundation, the Maningrida Football Community has been able to provide its own umpires for normal matches. The NTFL Umpires Association provides the field umpires for the Grand Final.

The Southern Communities competition has just finished its fifth year, with seven teams representing communities close and far distanced from Alice Springs. The community teams are Yuendumu, Papunya, Ti Tree, Mt Allen, Santa Teresa, Areyonga and Hermannsburg. The Hermannsburg team changed its name to Western Aranda in 1992. Since the competition's inception in 1990, Hermannsburg/Western Aranda has won three Premierships, Santa Teresa one, and Ti Tree one.

All matches are played at Traeger Park, Alice Springs during the southern football season from March to September. As Traeger Park is also the main venue for AFL matches, it is used by the community's competition on Saturdays and the AFL on Sundays.

SUPERULES

Superules was conceived from the idea of players the age of 35 and over being able to continue playing the sport they love, but without the heavy commitment required during their earlier days in the sport. High profile former VFL players Peter Hudson, Bernie Quinlan, Kevin Murray, George Bissett, John

Murphy, Bruce Doull, Kelvin
Moore and Kevin Morris have
been active in the various state competitions.

National Championships Darwin 1991

Superules was formulated in the country areas of Victoria during the 1980 season and grew from there to other States in 1982. Although matches were played in Darwin in 1981, NT Superules

History of the NTFL

did not become an official organisation until 1982. The inaugural President was Bob Slade, Secretary John Hobbs and Treasurer Herman Rooding.

Bob Slade was replaced in 1983 by Bryan Moroney, who occupied the position of President until 1993. Bryan also served as National President from 1984 to 1987, and was awarded the inaugural Life Membership in 1990. After being Treasurer from 1982 to 1993, Herman Rooding took over the Presidency in 1994. Jim Kiely has been Secretary since 1994.

There were four teams in the inaugural NT competition namely Bulldogs, Demons, Hawks and Roos. The season runs from May to September, and although matches are competitive, there are no Finals or Premierships. The earlier matches were played at the Showgrounds under lights, but due to the expenses incurred with lighting, matches are now played on Sunday afternoons at Football Park Marrara.

Since 1990, Darwin Superules have played their Tiwi Island counterparts as curtain raiser to the Tiwi Island Grand Final. A Tiwi Islands Superules team in turn come to Darwin and play the Darwin Superules as a curtain raiser to the Australia Day games.

Superules was very active in Alice Springs in the mid 80's, with prominent players such as Gerry Ebert and Bruce Simmons making their mark, plus Russell Naismith (current CAFL President) and Winemaker Dennis Hornsby.

The NT has played in 11 (did not attend 1989 Championship in Canberra because of airlines dispute) of the 12 National Championships conducted since 1983, winning the 1984 Championship, and the Division Two Championship in 1991 and 1994. The 1984 and 1991 National Championships were hosted by the NT, with matches played at Gardens Oval in 1984 and Football Park Marrara in 1991. The NT also fielded teams in the Masters (over 40's) in 1991 and 1994 in Perth.

Ray Buckley was Captain/Coach of the NT 1984 Championship team which comprised the following panel of players: Gympie Lew Fatt, Bruce Simmons, Steve Criddle, Lloyd Norrish, Russell Smith, John Munn, Neville Killian, Ged Bourke, Ken Fitzgerald, Dennis Stokes, Ali Muir, John Pepperill, Colin Borlace, Alan Smith, Warren Frazer, Gerry Ebert, Brian Hood, Jock McLeod, Bevan Davey, Norm Watson, Gary Clotz, Ken Bonson and Peter Stephens.

The 1991 NT Championship team was coached and captained by John Stokes and comprised the following squad: William McBride, Gunny Davey, Glen Zyka, Selwyn Short, Gus Gale, Brian Clarke, Hank McPhee, Les Chapman, Eddie Kitching, Barney Noonan, Davey Russell, Trevor Green, Alan McGuiness, Eddie Motlop, Norm Hagen, Rob Neve, Ross McGorman, Ian Smith, Michael Graham, Greg Peris, Bill Feeney, Alan Partridge, Joe Daby and Rod Hicks.

Since the start of the National Superules Championships in 1983, 29 NT players have made the All Australian Superules team. They are Gerry Ebert (1983), Ray Buckley (1983, Coach 1984, 1986), Russell Smith (1983, 1984), Bob Haines (1984, 1985), Brian Hood (1984), Jock McLeod (1984), Gary Clotz (1984), Ken Fitzgerald (1984), Bruce Simmons (1984); Ged Burke (1985), Warren Frazer (1985, 1986), Neville White (1987), Michael Graham (1987, 1990), Doug Kelly (1987), Les Chapman (1988, 1990), Selwyn Short (1988, 1990, 1991), Ross McGorman (1990), William McBride (1991), Gus Gale (1991), Gunney Davey (1991), Glen Zyka (1991), Roy Baenisch (1992) and Rob Neve (1992), Dean White and Mick Devitt (1993), Michael Graham, Craig Porter, Dave Carroll and Tom Tarrant (1994) and in the over 40's Dennis Fields, Jim Kiely and Bert Forssman.

History of the NTFL

In Perth in 1994, when the NT won their First National Championship title away from home Michael Graham scooped the pool:

member of Division 2 Championship team Best & Fairest in 2nd Division Vice-Captain of All Australian team
winner of Drop-kick Championship with 55.1 metres.

Ray Buckley still holds the record for longest Drop-kick, 67.2 metres in 1984.

NT Superules has over the past few years entertained spectators with exhibition matches during Australia Day Representative games where teams dressed in football uniforms of the early 1900's. Some of the old skills like drop kicks, stab passes and deliberately kicking out of bounds on the full were amongst the highlights of the matches.

As shown in the preceding paragraphs, Australian football would be the most widely played and supported sport in the Northern Territory. Taking into consideration the following factors:

- the total population of the Territory (167 000 in June 1991) is quite small compared to the less populated southern football states of Tasmania (467 000) and South Australia (1.4 million)
- the long distances between towns e.g. 506 km Alice Springs to Tennant Creek; and
- the remoteness of some Aboriginal communities (see following map of the NT)

the game's remarkable growth and popularity is quite an achievement for the hard working administrations of the local leagues and communities.

CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE (CAFL)

Presidents, Secretaries, Premiers, B&F Players 1947 to 1994

Year	President	Secretary	Premiers	Minahan Medallists (B&F)
1947	J W Nichols	T Long	Pioneers	R Roman (Pioneers)
1948	J W Nichols	T Long	Pioneers	M Costello (Pioneers)
1949	E Patterson	W E Rose	Pioneers	I Ganley (Rovers)
1950	A Wauchope	I Dawson	Federal	W Taylor (Pioneers)
1951	W Hession	D Henderson	Pioneers	I Ganley (Rovers)
1952	W Hession	L Miller	Rovers	E Morris (Federal)
		W Harris		
1953	A Wauchope	W Harris	Pioneers	W Harris (Rovers)
	M J McLeod	J Kerrison		
1954	M J McLeod	J Kerrison	Rovers	N Musgrove (Rovers)
				D Henscke (Rovers)
1955	L Underdown	J Kerrison	Federal	B Napier (Federal)
1956	L Underdown	J Kerrison	Pioneers	F McCoy (Pioneers)
1957	L Underdown	M E Morrow	Pioneers	W Cole (Pioneers)
1958	R L Harris	J Kerrison	Federals	B McGrath (Federal)
1959	R L Harris	E Carter	Federal	I Briggs (Rovers)

History of the NTFL

CAFL Presidents, Secretaries, Premiers, B&F Players 1947 to 1994 (cont'd)

Year	President	Secretary	Premiers	Minahan Medallists (B&F)
1960	R L Harris	E Carter	Federal	K Tilmouth (Federal)
1961	R L Harris	E Carter	Federal	K Tilmouth (Federal)
1962	R L Harris	E Carter	Federal	D Baldock (Federal)
1963	B Fenton	P A Beale	Federal	J Amadio (Rovers)
1964	A McGregor	P A Beale	Rovers	R Lush (Rovers)
1965	D Michel	G Buck	Pioneers	K Ogden (Pioneers)
1966	D Michel	P A Beale	Pioneers	M Liddle (Pioneers)
1967	K Sweet	A O'Shea	Pioneers	J Peterson (Rovers)
1968	K Sweet	T Feegan	Pioneers	J Pepperill (Pioneers)
1969	K Sweet	P Stone	Pioneers	S Satour (Pioneers)
1970	K Sweet	P Stone	Rovers	A Colangelo (Rovers)
1971	D M Newman	G Carpenter	Pioneers	O Coles (Pioneers)
1972	D M Newman	D Pollock	Pioneers	R Burch (South)
1973	D M Newman	D Pollock	Rovers	R Kopp (Pioneers)
1974	D M Newman	K Frost	Federal	B Simmonds (Federal)
1975	D M Newman	K Frost	Pioneers	A McLay (Rovers)
1976	D M Newman	K Frost	Pioneers	G Cooke (West) G Bowden (Rovers)
1977	D M Newman	K Frost	Pioneers	T Vanderwylt (Federal)
1978	D M Newman	K Frost	Rovers	N Chatfield (West)
1979	D M Newman	C McGonnan	West	G Peris (South)
1980	D M Newman	K McGlindey	West	S Williamson (West)
1981	D M Newman	T McElligott	Pioneers	W Hynes (Rovers)
1982	D M Newman	T McElligott	West	G Fields (Federal)
1983	D M Newman	D Baker	Pioneers	L White (Pioneers)
1984	K Manhire	I Shearer	South	R McPhee (West)
1985	K Manhire	I Shearer	Pioneers	P Nandy (South)
1986	K Manhire	I Shearer	Rovers	G Bullen (Rovers)
1987	J Amadio	I Shearer	Pioneers	L White (Pioneers)
1988	J Amadio	I Shearer	Rovers	M Earle (Rovers)
1989	J Amadio	R Laity	Pioneers	S Connelly (West)
1990	P Buckham	R Laity	Pioneers	D Hynes (Pioneers)
1991	Mrs J Sinclair	R Fraser	Pioneers	C Lewis (Federal)
1992	Mrs J Sinclair	R Fraser	South	P Muluns (Rovers)
1993	R Vale	R Fraser	South	D Debrinni (Rovers)
1994	R Vale	Mrs J Sinclair	Pioneers	T Hammond (Rovers)
1995	R Naismith	C Dean	South	G Smith (Pioneers)
1996	R Naismith	C Dean	Rovers	D Talbot (Souths)
1997	S Menzies	C Dean	Pioneers	R Chapple (West)
1998	S Menzies	C Dean	Pioneers	W Tilmouth (Souths)
1999	S Menzies	C Dean	Souths	S Hayes (Federals)
2000				
2001				

Barkly Australian Football League (BAFL)

Presidents, Secretaries, Premiers, B&F Players 1991 to 1994

Year	President	Secretary	Premiers	Best & Fairest
1991	K Johns	J Greenoff	Sporties	C Fox (Memo/Magpies)
1992	R Stow	D Stoddard	Sporties	S McAuliff (Eagles)
1993	R Stow	D Stoddard	Sporties	Z Foster (Ali Cumng)
1994	L Hickey	J Beaton	Sporties	C Neade(Elliott)
1995	L Hickey	J Beaton	Eagles	D Dempsey (Sporties)
1996	B Anderson	R Andrew	Sporties	G Neade (Elliot)
1997	B Fowler	B Fowler	Memo	D Fitz (Eagles)
1998	R Williams	K Andrews	Sporties	R Campbell (Sporties)

Katherine District Football League (KDFL)

Presidents, Secretaries, Premiers, B&F Players 1988/89 to 1994/95

Year	President	Secretary	Premiers	B & F Player
1988/89	K Pritchard P Thompson	S Tobin	Kirby's Agents	P Hopkins (K/A) T Booth (R'lands) G Fitzgerald (Tind)
1989/90	P Thompson	D Thompson	Rowlands	M Garland (Rowlands)
1990/91	P Thompson	D Thompson	Eastside	B Hawker (K/S)
1991/92	P Thompson	D Thompson	Katherine Sth	D Lewis (K/A)
1992/93	B Cameron	A Walsh	Katherine Sth	D Ross(E/Side), B Collier (K/Sth)
1993/94	B Cameron	S Homes	Eastside	L Thompson(Ngkurr)
1994/95	B Cameron	N Van Kleef	Katherine Sth	S Thompson (K/A)
1995/96	B Cameron	N Van Kleef	Katherine Sth	O Turner (Ngukrr)
1996/97	V Fardone	N Van Kleef	Katherine Sth	I Dunbar (K/A)
1997/98	V Fardone		Katherine Sth	No Medal Awarded (Katherine Floods)
1998/99				
1999/00				
2000/01				
2001/02				

Gove Australian Football League (GAFL)

Premiers and B & F Players 1975 to 1994

Year	President	Premiers	Merlo Medallist (B&F)
1975	C Dillon	Djarrak	
1976		Cats	Y Maymuru (Djarrak)
1977		Sth Arnhem	D Arnold (Sth Arnhem)
1978		Cats	W Wunungmurra (Djarrak)
1979	K Graetz	Cats	Y Maymuru (Djarrak)
1980	K Graetz	Djarrak	Y Maymuru (Djarrak)
1981	K Graetz	Djarrak	S McElvie (Insects)
1982	K Graetz	Sth Arnhem	R Parish (Cats)
1983	I Holland	Cats	B Gayunydyji (Gopu)
1984	G Schleicher	Cats	P Branch (Sth Arnhem)
1985	E Peck	Sth Arnhem	R Parish (Cats)
1986	T Van Der Wyrnt	Cats	B Cooper (Sth Arnhem)
1987	T Van Der Wyrnt	Walkabout	R Cooper (Walkabout)
1988	T Van Der Wyrnt	Cats	Y Maymuru (Djarrak)
1989	P McEachen	Walkabout	P Byfield (Walkabout)

History of the NTFL

GAFL Premiers and B & F Players 1975 to 1994 (cont'd)

Year		Premiers	Merlo Medallist (B&F)	Bill Buckle Medal (Grand Final)
1990	P McEachen	Gopu	J Sheers (Walkabout)	
1991	A McKenzie	Walkabout	J McFaul (Cats)	
1992	G McFarlane	Walkabout	M Cooper (Walkabout)	
1993	Mrs S McLure	Cats	J Sampson (Walkabout)	
1994	T Ryan	Gopu	D Hawkes (Gopu)	
1995	J Sampson	Gopu	D Hawkes (Gopu)	M Dhamaranoji (Walkabout)
1996	V Patullo	Gopu	J Sampson	
1997	C Cooke	Galupa Dockers	W Wunummarra	Y Munungurr (Galupa Dockers)
1998		Gopu	D Bromot (Gopu)	Y Munungurr (Galupa Dockers)
1999		Saints	Not Awarded	Matt Parker (Saints)
2000		Djarrak	Djalkalpuy Warawili (Djet)	Wilson Wungumurra
2001		Gopu	Wilson Wungumurra	

NT FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (NTFA)**Presidents, Secretaries, Premiers, B & F Players 1982/83 to 1994/95**

Year	President	Secretary	Premiers	B & F Player
A Grade				
1982/83	P Lancaster	Mrs S Kersley-Baum	Katherine	T Scholz (Pints)
1983/84	P Lancaster	Mrs S Kersley-Baum	Banks	D Arnold (Banks)
1984/85	P Lancaster	M Barlow	Katherine	B Houlson (Banks)
1985/86	P Lancaster	M Barlow	Banks	L Roe (Jabiru)
1986/87	P Lancaster	M Barlow	Pints	T Scholz (Pints)
1987/88	P Lancaster	Mrs S Kersley-Baum	Pints	G Lindner (Jabiru)
1988/89	P Lancaster	M Barlow	Jabiru	P Coburn (T/Village)
1989/90	M Harrison	A Partridge	Jabiru	G Wilson (T/Village)
1990/91	M Harrison	A Partridge	Pints	P Richardson (T/Village)
1991/92	M Harrison	A Partridge	Banks	W McLennon (Jabiru)
“				D Carroll (Pints)
1992/93	M Barlow	A Partridge	Banks	A Howard (T/Village)
1993/94	M Barlow	A Partridge	University	C Sippets (T/Village)
1994/95	S Olsson	W Gear	University	B Hoffman (Pints)
				J Sutton (Banks)
1995/96	S Olsson	W Gear	University	B Simpson (Jabiru)
1996/97	W Gear	T Wild	University	R Cates (Banks)
1997/98	W Gear		Banks	R Ryan
1998/99	W Gear		University	N Long (T-V)
1999/00	D Mitchell		University	
2000/01	D Mitchell		Banks	L Tracey
B Grade				
1991/92			Banks	S Minnis (Services)
1992/93			Pints	R Page (Pints)
1993/94			Goannas	Price (Goannas)
1994/95			University	W Bading (Belyuen)
1995/96			P.I.N.T.S	J Holloway (Banks)
1996/97	W Gear	T Wild	University	P Knight (Banks)
1997/98	W Gear		Jabiru	J Georganous (Uni)
1998/99	W Gear		University	P Knight (Banks)
1999/00	D Mitchell		Gunbalunga	M Taylor
2000/01	D Mitchell		Banks	
2001/02				

TIWI ISLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE (TIWI FL)**Premiers and B & F Players 1969/70 to 1994/95**

Year	Premiers	B&F Player
1969/70	Pumaralli	M P Babui
1970/71	Tapalinga	W Kerinauia
1971/72	Irrimam	J Puantulura

Year	Premiers	B&F Player
1972/73	Imalu	J B Tipiloura
1973/74	Imalu	H P Kerinaiaua
1974/75	Tuyu	M Purantatamerri
1975/76	Pumaralli	H P Kerinaiaua
1976/77	Tapalinga	H P Kerinaiaua
1977/78	Pumaralli	I Kerinaiaua
1978/79	Imalu	B Pilakui
1979/80	Pumaralli	S Timeapatua
1980/81	Imalu	T Portaminni
1981/82	Imalu	V Kerinaiaua
1982/83	Tapalinga	V Kerinaiaua
1983/84	Imalu	B Pilakui
1984/85	Imalu	M V Puautjimi
1985/86	Tapalinga	B Pilakui
1986/87	Tapalinga	V Kerinaiaua
1987/88	Talalinga	M Pipungwuti
1988/89	Imalu	P Tipungwuti
1989/90	Imalu	B Timaepature
1990/91	Tapalinga	B Higgins
1991/92	Imalu	T Pupangarmirri
1992/93	Imalu	L Warlapinni
		D Tipungwuti
1993/94	Imalu	E Tipungwuti
1994/95	Tuyu	G Puruntatameri
1995/96	Imalu	M Puruntatameri Jnr
1996/97	Irrimaru	S Tippingwuti
1997/98	Tapalinga	G Puruntatameri
1998/99	Imalu	N Pilakui
1999/00	Pumaralli	N Pilakui
2000/01		
2001/02		

Southern Communities Competition

Premiers and B&F Players 1990 to 1995 - Division 1

Year	Premiers	B&F Player (from 1994)	
1990	Hermansburg		
1991	Santa Teresa		
1992	Western Aranda		
1993	Western Aranda		
1994	Ti Tree	W Patrick	(Western Aranda)
1995	Ti Tree	H Sampson	(Yuendumu)
1996	Anmatjere	D Malbunka	(Western Aranda)
1997	Yuendumu	M Ingkatji	(Pukatja)
1998	Macdonnell Dist	A Satour	(McDonnell Dist)
1999	Ti Tree	J Heffernan	(Pukatja)

Premiers and B&F Players 1995 - Division 2

1995	Ipolera	B Inkalmala (Western Aranda)
1996	Papunya	D Andy (Papanya)
1997		

History of the NTFL

Maningrida Community Competition**Presidents, Premiers and Coaches 1981/82 to 1994/95**

Year	President	Premiers	Coach
1981/82	Jimmy Cooper	Baru	Dudley Cooper
1982/83	Dudley Cooper	Magpies	Jimmy Cooper
1983/84	Jimmy Cooper	Seagulls	Steven James
1984/85	Jimmy Cooper		
1985/86	Jimmy Cooper	Lightning	Ray Nulla
1986/87	Jimmy Cooper	Magpies	Jimmy Cooper
1987/88	Jimmy Cooper	Magpies	Jimmy Cooper
1988/89	Jimmy Cooper	Baru	Dudley Cooper
1989/90	Jimmy Cooper	Seagulls	Joseph Diddo
1990/91	Jimmy Singleton	Seagulls	Roly Madjara
1991/92	Jimmy Singleton	Baru	Albert Djuljango
1992/93	Jimmy Singleton	Eagles	Willie Fejo
1993/94	Jimmy Singleton	Magpies	Roger Olsen
1994/95	Jimmy Singleton	Crows	George Pascoe
1995/96	No Competition		
1996/97	No Competition		
1997/98	No Competition		
1998/99	Dale Pascoe (Rec Officer)		

*How high did he jump?
 Bubba Tye on his way down
 after missing a screamer at
 Gardens Oval Bubba's
 aerial skills was one of the
 reasons he was chosen as
 Number One in the Toyota
 Top 20.*

History of the NTFL

Two of the NT's greatest ambassadors to have played in the big leagues - David Kantilla and Maurice Rioli.

David Kantilla showing the kicking style which

helped him through 113 games with South Adelaide and representation with the South

australian State team.

Maurice Rioli being cheered by jubilant team-mates after leading the NT to its historic championship win in the 1988 Bicentennial Football Carnival (2nd Division) in Adelaide.

History of the NTFL

12. REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

The chance to represent the Northern Territory in the National Secondary Schoolboys Championships, Commonwealth Bank Cup, Australia Day and other Senior Representative games is a big incentive for footballers playing in the NTFL's junior and league competitions to strive for top level standards in the areas of skills, fitness and commitment.

Senior representative games started in 1948, with the first inter-town match between Darwin and Alice Springs. A total of nine matches were played between the two centres from 1948 to 1984. In 1961, the Darwin team played its first interstate game against a team from the Mary Kathleen township in northern Queensland.

Following the change of name of representative teams from Darwin to NTFL, the first of a series of matches against clubs from the southern leagues took place in Darwin on 16 October 1966 against SANFL club North Adelaide. A further eight games were played against clubs from the SANFL, WAFL, VFL and the Australian Amateurs from 1966 to 1979.

Promotional games were arranged on 8 October 1977 and 31 January 1983 to whet the football public's appetite for top class football. The 1977 game between VFL clubs Hawthorn and Geelong provided an exhibition of high standard football, but proved a financial disaster for NTFL club Wanderers, who were the organisers of the game. It appeared the Darwin football public, like their southern counterparts, would rather support a game between a competitive local representative team against a southern team, than an exhibition match between two southern clubs albeit VFL clubs. Hawthorn won the game quite convincingly 18.14.122 to Geelong 8.14.64.

The NTFL Executive organised the 1983 game, which was between selected sides comprising NTFL local players and imports. The imports comprised players from southern states competitions playing in the various NTFL club teams. Selected VFL players Alex Jesaulenko (Carlton), Phil Carman (Collingwood), Mick Nolan (North Melbourne), Peter Maynard (Melbourne), Glen Middlemiss (St Kilda) and Peter Morrison (South Melbourne) were invited as the star attractions for both sides. Phil Carman and Mick Nolan were unable to participate.

The match was part of a joint Australian Rules/Rugby Union Australia Day Celebration fixture that was well supported by the Darwin public (over 8 000 spectators) and proved to be a successful financial venture. The team line-ups, quarter by quarter scores, best players and goalkickers were as follows:

Locals

B	Warren McCoy (ND)	Geoff Hill (SM)	John Paterson (Dwn)
HB	Don Bonson (Dwn)	Rohan Helyar (N'C)	Alfie May (Tabs)
C	Gus Wanganeen (Wand)	Benny Vigona (SM)	Adrian Moscheni (Dwn)
HF	Paul Motlop (N'C)	Alex Jesualenko (Carl)	Graham Russell (Wand)
F	Robbie Cooper (Dwn)	Doug Kelly (Wand)	Kevin Wanganeen (Wand)
R&R	Eddie McKenzie (Wand)	Hank McPhee (Tabs)	Mark Motlop (N'C)
Inter	Tom Lawler (Dwn)	Michael Athanasiou (SM)	Brian Long (SM)
	Rod McPhee (Tahs)	Charlie Delaceour (Wand)	
Coach	Steve Abala		

History of the NTFL

Imports

B	Wayne Carry (ND)	Tony Lehman (ND)	Glen Middlemiss (S/K)
HB	Danny Jenkins (ND)	Damien Melican (Tahs)	Wayne Parish (ND)
C	Peter Belford (ND)	Michael Graham (SM)	Rick Stansborough (Wand)
HF	Peter Stennett (Wand)	Trevor Sutton (N'C)	Peter Morrison S/M)
F	Gary Menzel (SM)	Peter Munro (ND)	Gavin Rowe (SM)
R&R	Brett Allen (SM)	Paul Nikoletos (Wand)	Gary Turbill (N'C)
Inter	Geoff Duthie (Glenelg)	Peter Maynard (Glenelg)	
Coach	Ray Buckley		

Locals 5.0 10.3 13.4 18.7(115)

Imports 2.1 3.3 4.6 6.9(45)

Locals Best Players - Vigona, K Wanganeen, Kelly, Paterson, G Wanganeen, P Motlop

Locals Goalkickers - Kelly 6, P Motlop 3, Cooper, Russell, Vigona 2 ea, May, Moscheni, K Wanganeen 1 ea

Imports Best Players - Allen, Jenkins, Stennett, Nikoletos, Turbill, Melican

Imports Goalkickers - Sutton 2, Munro, Nikoletos, Morrison, Graham 1

There was a break in representative matches against interstate teams from 1979 until 1985, when the NTFL Executive had to consider two important factors before deciding whether to re-start Representative matches. The first was whether an NTFL side would be competitive against a southern team, and the second was the financial viability of future games.

The availability of local players like Maurice Rioli and Michael McLean who had become established VFL stars, the influx of good players from the southern competitions into the NTFL competition, and the improved showing of local NTFL players made the selection of a good competitive team become a reality. Also the Darwin football public showed by their support of the 1983 promotional game that the financial viability of representative games was possible. The NTFL Executive did not need any further assurances, and set about organising the first of the popular Australia Day matches.

The first Australia Day game was played on 26 January 1985 between the NTFL and SANFL club Glenelg. The Australia Day games have become a regular annual fixture on the football calendar, with the NTFL Representative team pitted against SANFL and AFL club teams.

DARWIN/ALICE SPRINGS GAMES

There were nine inter-town games played between 1948 and 1984, with Darwin winning eight, the only loss being in 1952.

9/10/48 - Darwin defeated Alice Springs at Darwin

Darwin 1.1 7.10 12.10 20.16(136)

Alice Springs 5.4 6.5 10.10 11.11(77)

Darwin Goalkickers - Gunderson 10, Pon 4, Ah Mat 3, Abala, Hayes, Cart 1 each

Darwin Best Players - Pon (B.O.G), Purcell, Pilkington, Peddar, Ah Mat, Gunderson

History of the NTFL

Darwin Team

B	Philip Snape (Bufs)	Doug Dayman (Tahs)	Roy Graetz (Wand)
HB	Ron Leever (Wand)	Ray Daniel (Army/RAAF)	Nell Howard (Tahs)
C	Bob Pilkington (Navy)	Ron Peddar (Tahs)	Steve Abala (Bufs)
HF	Bill Purcell (Navy)	Ted Gunderson (Tahs)	Jimmy Cart (Wand)
F	Max Sario (Wand)	All Ah Mat (Bufs)	Bennie Baban (Bufs)
R&R	Ian Fraser (Tahs)	Leo Pon (Bufs)	Bob Hayes (Navy)
Res	Paul Church (Tahs)	Eddie Chambers (Wand)	

1714149 - Darwin defeated Alice Springs at Alice Springs

Darwin 2.4 5.8 7.11 8.14(62)

Alice Springs 3.1 4.3 5.10 6.16(52)

Darwin Goalkickers - Sarib 3, Grocock 2, Fejo, Weir, Pullen 1

Darwin Best Players- Abala (B.O.G), May, Snape, Fejo, Hoy, Hatch.

Darwin Team

B	Alfie May (Bufs)	Frank Perez (Bufs)	Phillip Snape (Bufs)
HB	Roy Graetz (Wand)	Andy Nation (Army/RAAF)	Day (Tahs)
C	Murray Hatch (Tahs)	Steve Abala (Bufs)	John O'Callagha (Tahs)
HF	Fred Snashall (Tahs)	Joe Emmett (Army/RAAF)	Sabo Briston (Bufs)
F	Jimmy Fejo (Bufs)	Joe Sarib (Bufs)	Alan Grocock (Tahs)
R&R	Ian Fraser (Tahs) (c)	Ray Weir (Tahs)	Reg Hoy (Wand)
Res	Pullen (Bufs)	Max Sario (Wand)	

8/10/49 - Darwin defeated Alice Springs at Darwin

Darwin 4.3 8.9 12.14 18.17(125)

Alice Springs 3. 1 7.8 10.4 12.16(88)

Darwin Goalkickers - not available

Darwin Best Players - Snashall (B.O.G), Clarke, Knight, Edwards, Fraser

Darwin Team - Team placings not available. Squad included -

Bufs -	Steve Abala, Leo Pon, Ron Chin, Frank Perez, Sabo Briston, Jimmy Fejo, Phillip Snape
Tahs -	Ian Fraser, John O'Callaghan, Ray Weir, W Knight, W Richards, Fred Snashall, Murray Hatch, I Edwards
Wand -	Gilbert Clarke, Max Sario, Reg Hoy, Eddie Chambers, Reg McLennon, Steve Peckham, Gabe Hazelbane

12/4/52 - Alice Springs defeated Darwin at Alice Springs

Alice Springs 5.4 6.6 10.15 11.18(84) Darwin 1.3 6.8 7.11 8.13(61) Darwin Goalkickers - Sario 3, Briston 2, Fleming, Fejo, Thompson 1

Darwin Best Players- Myles, Chambers (B.O.G), Hunt, Moore, Fejo, Batcho, Graetz

Darwin Team - Team placings not available. Squad included -

Bufs -	Phillip Snape, Keith Batcho, Sabo Briston, Jimmy Fejo, Alfie May,
Tahs -	W Moore, N Fearn, Merv Hunt, Norm Yeend, T Thomson
Wand -	Max Sario, Roy Graetz, Steve Peckham,
W & H -	I Felsenthal, Frank Chambers, Reg Chin, Ross Dalrymple, F Fleming, Les Myles, G Marshallsea, Ted Egan

History of the NTFL

9/4/55 - Darwin defeated Alice Springs at Alice Springs

Darwin 16.13(109)

Alice Springs 12.10(82)

Darwin Goalkickers - not available

Darwin Best Players - Terry Lew Fatt (BOG) others not available

Darwin Team - not available

1/5/60 - Darwin defeated Alice Springs at Alice Springs

Darwin 3.4 3.10 4.16 6.22(58)

Alice Springs 0.2 2.3 4.9 8.9(57)

Darwin Goalkickers - Saturninus 5, Marcellus 1

Darwin Best Players- Edmund, Ginger Boy, David, Bertram, Saturninus, Marcellus

Darwin Team - Comprised full blood Aborigines from the Premiership teams of last two years Saint Marys and Wanderers.

30/4/72 - Darwin defeated Alice Springs at Alice Springs

Darwin 6.4 1.9 18.14 26.17 (173)

Alice Springs 2.1 6.3 8.4 12.6 (78)

Darwin Goalkickers - Staines 11, Stokes, Timeapatua 4 each, Pepperill, Tye, Crawshaw 2 each, Grove

Darwin Best Players- Tye (B.O.G), Staines, Stokes, Crawshaw, Coles, Rueben Cooper

Darwin Team

B	Barry Kicker (N'C)	George Butler (Dwn)	John Pepperill (SM)
HB	John Hobbs (Dwn)	Lea Coles (Dwn)	John Tye (Dwn)
C	Ron Cooper (Dwn)	Ken Bonson (N'C)	Chris Moyle (Dwn)
HF	Rueben Cooper (Dwn)	Terry Timeapatua (SM)	Maurie Ryan (Wand)
F	Mal Groves (Dwn)	Rupert Staines (N'C)	Don Stokes (Dwn)
R&R	Mike Crawshaw (N'C)	Tom Muir (Dwn)	Keith Pattinson (N'C)
Res	Dave Jeffs (Tahs)	Peter March (SM)	
Coach	Tony Shaw		

515180 - Darwin defeated Alice Springs at Darwin

Darwin 3.1 6.3 9.5 16.7(103)

Alice Springs 4.2 7.7 12.12 14.16(100)

Darwin Goalkickers - Hagen 3, Cooper, Stokes, March, McPhee 2 each, Shields, Wanganeen, Stennett, McDowell, Paterson 1 each

Darwin Best Players - Paterson, McPhee, Cooper, Angeles, March

Darwin Team - Team platings not available. Squad included -

Darwin - John Cooper, Greg Bonson, Geoff Angeles, Norm Hagen (C), John Paterson, Don Bonson Jun,

Wand - Bobby Shields, Gus Wanganeen, Dennis McDowell, Peter Stennett, Ross McGorman, Nth Darwin - Alan Blight, Alwyn Davey, John Stokes, David Nason,

S/Marys - Peter March, John Pepperill, Gympie Lew Fatt, Hans Heystraten

N'Cliff- Mo Motlop, Quinton Flett,

Tab - Terry Wilkins, Rod McPhee, Hank McPhee,

Coach - Ian Smith

History of the NTFL

6/5/84 - Darwin defeated Alice Springs at Alice Springs

Darwin 6.3 14.7 19.8 22.10(142) Alice Springs 5.1 7.3 7.7 9.10(64)

Darwin Goalkickers - Lawler 5, Ross 4, Cusack, Dunn 3, R McPhee, Long 2, K Wanganeen, G Wanganeen, H McPhee 1 each

Darwin Best Players - N Long, D Ross, T Lawler, D Peris, G Kenny, D Cusack

Darwin Team - Team placings not available. Squad included -

Darwin - David Ross, Tom Lawler, Glen Castillon, Bruce Hoffman, Gerry Kenny, John Paterson (C),

Wand - Kevin Wanganeen, Jamie Kelly, Gus Wanganeen,

Nth Dar - Michael Heenan, David Cusack

S/Marys - Noel Long, Ted Liddy, Damien Berto, Cadji Dunn, Michael Roe

N'Cliff- Ingvar Dyrting, David Peris, John Tye,

Tahs - Alfie May, Rod McPhee, Hank McPhee,

Coach - John Stokes

REPRESENTATIVE GAMES AGAINST TEAMS FROM OTHER STATES

As reported earlier in this chapter, the NTFL's first interstate game was played on 16/9/61 against a team from the North Queensland township of Mary Kathleen. A further eight games against interstate teams were played between 1966 and 1979. The NTFL beat Mary Kathleen and a Queensland Australian Football League team, but lost to SANFL club North Adelaide (twice), VFL clubs Collingwood and St Kilda, VFL All Stars, WAFL club South Fremantle and the Australian Amateurs.

16/9/61 - Darwin defeated Mary Kathleen at Darwin

Darwin Team

B	J Angeles (Bufs)	F Perez (Bufs)	S Brown (Bufs)
HB	W Muir (W&H)	S Klose (C) (Tahs)	B Lee (Wand)
C	A Chin (W&H)	Robert (SM)	J Tutton (Bufs)
HF	T Cooper (Wand)	C Jury (Wand)	D Woodie (Wand)
F	D Stone (SM)	Joe Bonson (W&H)	H Whitbread (Tahs)
R&R	D Male (W&H)	D Muller (SM)	D Duncan (Wand)
Res	C Scott (Tahs)	R Woodruffe (Bufs)	
Coach	M Lee		
Umpire	J Bailes		

Darwin 4.4 16.11 20.17 27.26 (188)

Mary Kathleen 0.2 0.2 1.3 1.5 (11)

Darwin Best Players - Cooper, Brown, Stone, Whitbread, Klose

Darwin Goalkickers - Brown 7, Cooper 6, Woodie, Stone, Scott 3 ea, Angeles, Bonson 2 each, Tutton 1

History of the NTFL

16/10/66 - North Adelaide defeated NTFL at Darwin (Gardens Oval)**NTFL Team**

B	Nungah Ah Mat (Dwn)	Edmund (SM)	Herman Rooding (Dwn)
HB	Frank Taylor (Tahs)	Wes Walmsley (Tahs)	Rob Middleton (N'C)
C	Joe Tutton (Dwn)	Graham Mahney (N'C)	Hyacinth (SM)
HF	Jock McLeod (Dwn)	Gerry Roe SM)	Jimmy Siaven (Tahs) (c)
F	Don Stokes (Dwn)	Bobby Garner (Dwn)	Alan Smith (N'C)
R&R	Jim Petterson (Tahs)	Jim Anderson (Dwn)	Gympie Lew Fatt (SM)
Res	Wayne Radbone (Tahs)	Paddy Leverence (Wand)	
Coach	Terry Lew Fatt		
Umpires	J Miller, E Hansford		

North Adelaide 4.1 5.2 6.6 9.11 (65)

NTFL 1.4 5.6 6.6 7.9(51)

NTFL Best Players - Mahney, Hyacinth, Roe, Lew Fatt, Edmund, Stokes

NTFL Goalkickers - Roe 3, Anderson 2, Garner, Low Fatt 1 each

23/10/66 - North Adelaide defeated NTFL at Darwin (Gardens Oval)**NTFL Team**

B	Nungah Ah Mat (Dwn)	Edmund (SM)	Paddy Leverence (Wand)
HB	Frank Taylor (Tahs)	Wes Walmsley (Tahs)	Rob Middleton (N'C)
C	Jim Crosby (Tahs)	Graham Mahney (N'C)	Joe Tutton (Dwn)
HF	Mike McGrade (Tahs)	Gerry Roe (SM)	Jimmy Slaven(C)(Tahs)
F	Don Stokes (Dwn)	Bobby Garner (Dwn)	Alan Smith (N'C)
R&R	Jim Petterson (Tahs)	Jim Anderson (Dwn)	Gympie Lew Fatt (SM)
Res	Ray Dantoine (Dwn)	Terry Duke (Tahs)	
Coach	Terry Lew Fatt		
Umpire	E Hansford		

North Adelaide 1.2 5.9 11.10 13.13(91)

NTFL 4.4 8.6 10.9 10.9(69)

NTFL Best Players - Edmund, Walmsley, Smith, Petterson, Taylor, Roe

NTFL Goalkickers - Roe 3, Garner, Stokes, Anderson 2 each, Lew Fatt 1

7/10/67 - Collingwood defeated NTFL at Darwin (Gardens Oval)**NTFL Team**

B	Steve Abala (Dwn)	Phil Murphy (Tahs)	Nungah Ah Mat (Dwn)
HB	Bill Van Heldon (SM)	Wes Walmsley (Tahs)	Trevor Jones (Tahs)
C	Leon Gregory (SM)	Graham Mahney (N'C)	Ken Bonson (N'C)
HF	Jim Anderson (Dwn)	Aldo Rossetto(C)(Dwn)	Gerry Roe (SM)
P	Peter Davis (Tahs)	Ralph Wiese (Tahs)	Don Stokes (Dwn)
R&R	Peter Shakespeare (N'C)	John Bonson (N'C)	Gympie Lew Fatt (SM)
Res	Bobby Garner (Dwn)	Maurie Ryan (Wand)	
Coach	Don Bonson		
Umpires	J Auld		

Collingwood 2.4 4.6 10.7 14.9(93)

NTFL 2.1 7.3 8.5 11.8(74)

NTFL Best Players - Lew Fatt, Stokes, Ken Bonson, Rossetto, Davis, Shakespeare, Walmsley

NTFL Goalkickers - Stokes 3, Rossetto 2, Anderson, Roe, Wiese Ken Bonson, Garner, Lew Fatt 1 each

24/10/67 VFL All Stars defeated NTFL at Darwin (Gardens Oval)

NTFL Team

B	Steve Abala (Dwn)	Phil Murphy (Tahs)	Nungah Ah Mat (Dwn)
HB	Bill Van Heldon (SM)	Wes Walmsley (Tahs)	Gavin Docherty (N'C)
C	Leon Gregory (SM)	Graham Mahney (N'C)	Ken Bonson (N'C)
I-IF	Jim Anderson (Dwn)	Aldo Rossetto(C)(Dwn)	Ralph Wiese (Tahs)
F	Don Stokes (Dwn)	Mike Poulter (Tahs)	Bobby Garner (Dwn)
R&R	Peter Shakespeare (N'C)	John Bonson (N'C)	Gympie Lew Fatt (SM)
Res	Terry Duke (Tabs)	Ross Williams (Tahs)	
Coach	Don Bonson		
Umpire	J Auld		

VFL All Stars 4.3 12.6 14.11 18.15 (123)

NTFL 1.2 4.5 5.8 7.12(54)

All Stars Best Players - Hassa Mann, Bob Davis, Royce Hart, John Nicholls, Paddy Guinane, Don Williams

NTFL Best Players - Van Heldon, Lew Fatt, Ah Mat, John Bonson Ken Bonson

All Stars Goalkickers - Hart 7, Skilton, Guinane, Mann, Magee, Nicholls 2 each, Dean 1

Goalkickers - Anderson, PouRer, Duke, Williams, Mahney, Lew Fatt, Garner 1 each

11/10/69 St Kilda defeated NTFL at Darwin (Gardens Oval)

NTFL Team

B	George Ah Matt (Dwn)	Lachie McLean (Dwn)	Bill McLean (Dwn)
HB	Jock McLeod (Dwn)	Geoff Hardiman (Tahs)	Bryan Moroney (Dwn)
C	Jimmy Conway (Tahs)	Frank Strazdins (Tahs)	Bruce Deans (Tails)
HF	Paddy Poelingoe(Dwn)	Aldo Rossetto (Dwn) (c)	Jimmy Anderson(Dwn)
F	Alan Smith (N'C)	Gerry Roe (SM)	Steve Abala (Dwn)
R&R	Graham Hopkins (N'C)	Nungah Ah Matt (Dwn)	Leon Gregory (SM)
Res	Dave Berry (Tahs)	Wes Walmsley (Tahs)	Peter Shakespeare (N'C)
Coach	Aldo Rossetto		
Umpire	J Auld		

St Kilda 1.2 7.9 10.12 11.12(78)

NTFL 2.2 2.2 4.4 4.5(29)

NTFL Best Players - Bill McLean, Hopkins, Hardiman, Strazdins, Roe

NTFL Goalkickers - Roe 3, Hopkins 1

13/10/73 South Fremantle defeated NTFL at Darwin (Gardens Oval)

NTFL Team

B	Tony Dragan (N'C)	Alan Smith (Wand) (c)	Billy Ellis (Wand)
HB	Joe Cooper (Dwn)	Lloyd Norrish (Tahs)	Norm Watson (N'C)
C	Bobby Shields (Wand)	Chris Moyle (Dwn)	John Tye (Darwin)
HF	Norm Hagen (Dwn)	Bob McKenzie (Tabs)	Chris Roberts(N'C)
F	Patrick May (Oenpelli)	Mike Crawshaw (N'C)	Darryl Window(Wand)
R&R	Claude Ciastowski (N'C)	Eddie Fry (Wand)	Pat Murphy (SM)
Res	Ken Hannaford (SM)	Sam Norman (Tahs)	Emerg Dennis Lew Fatt (SM)
Coach	Tony Shaw		
Umpire	T Angus		

South Fremantle 7.3 11.6 18.8 23.10(148) NTFL 1.1 4.5 8.5 10.8(68) NTFL Best Players - Dragan,

Murphy, Ellis, Moyle, Ciastowski, Cooper

NTFL Goalkickers - Roberts, Tye, Window 2 each, McKenzie, Crawshaw, Murphy, Lew Fatt

1 ea

History of the NTFL

14/4/74 NTFL defeated Queensland in Brisbane

NTFL Team

B	Tony Dragun (N'C)	Norm Watson (N'C)	Bob Butcher (SM)
HB	Greg Peris (N'C)	Mike PouRer (Tabs)	Eddie Fry (Wand)
C	Ron Quail (Dwn)	Keith Nickels (Tabs)	Mike Wall (Tahs)
HF	Bob McKenzie (Tails)	Arch Wilkey (Tahs)	John Tye (N'C) (c)
F	Allan Oates (N'C)	Norm Hagen (Dwn)	Maurice Rioli (SM)
R&R	Ali Muir (Dwn)	Stewie Jeffrey (SM)	Keith Pattinson (N'C)
Res	Ian Keriniua (SM)	Jack Long (SM)	
Coach	Tony Shaw		
Umpire	A Alcock (QAFL)		

NTFL	0.1	4.4	8.10	15.12(102)
Queensland	2.0	7.4	9.7	10.10(70)

NTFL Best Players - Dragun (BOG), Muir, Nickels, Rioli, Tye

NTFL Goalkickers - Tye 4, Nickels 3, Jeffrey, Muir, Rioli 2 each, McKenzie, Wilkey 1 each

28/7/79 Australian Amateurs defeated NTFL at VFL Park, Melbourne

NTFL Team

B	Gus Wanganeen (Wand)	John Patterson (Dwn)	John Green (MS)
HB	Greg Peris (N'C)	Peter Lauritsen (SM)	Billy Ellis (Wand)
C	Lance White (A/S)	John Tye (N'C)	Ian Smith (ND)
HF	Grant Boucher (ND)	Alan Oates (N'C)	Robbie Cooper (Dwn)
F	Leslie Turner (A/S)	John Pepperill (SM)	Dennis Lew Fatt (Dwn)
R&R	Hans Heystraten (SM)	Tony Dragun (N'C)(c)	Joe Daby (N'C)
Res	Peter March (SM)	Keith Nickels (Tabs)	
Coach	Bob Elix		
Umpires	Bryant	Moss	

Australian Amateurs	6.3	14.8	20.14	27.17(179)
NTFL	2.7	4.9	6.10	13.15(93)

NTFL Best Players - Tye, Boucher, Wanganeen, Cooper, Daby

NTFL Goalkickers - Oates 4, Cooper 2, Daby, Tye, March, Peris, Turner, Heystraten, Boucher 1 each

AUSTRALIA DAY REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES AND AFL CHALLENGE

As mentioned earlier in this chapter, the financial success of the 1983 Australia Day promotional game between locals and imports, and the improved standard of local players and good quality imports prompted the NTFL Executive to start staging Australia Day and other representative matches against club teams from the SANFL and AFL.

All matches were played at either Gardens Oval or Football Park Marrara, with the first match played on 26 January 1985 against SANFL club Glenelg. Matches played under lights from 1995.

History of the NTFL

26/1/85 NTFL defeated Glenelg at Gardens Oval

NTFL Team

B	Don Oliver (Wand)	John Paterson (Dwn)	Warren McCoy (ND)
HB	Brian Long (SM)	Michael Athanasiou(SM)	Don Bonson (Dwn)
C	Ted Liddy (SM)(c)	Damien Christensen(SM)	Noel Long (SM)
HF	Benny Vigona (SM)	Cadji Dunn (SM)	Simon Meehan (Tahs)
P	Steven Long (SM)	Steve Thomson (SM)	Mark Housley (SM)
R&R	David Croker (N'C)	Tom Lawler (Dwn)	Mark Motlop (N'C)
Inter	Bob Leskovec (Wand)	William Briston (Dwn)	Wayne Smith (SM)
	Alwyn Davey (ND)	Rod McPhee (SM)	Alberto Cubillo (SM)
Coach	John Taylor		
Umpires	John Hobbs, Frank Brimson		

NTFL	3.3	4.3	10.13	18.18(126)
Glenelg	4.1	6.2	8.5	14.7(91)

Best Players - McCoy (Aust Day Medallist), Briston, B Long, Dunn, Paterson, Lawler, Bonson, Christensen

NTFL Goalkickers - S Long 5, Housley 3, Briston, Christensen, Thomson 2 each, Meehan, Lawler, Davey, Dunn 1 ea

25/1/86 NTFL defeated Essendon at Gardens Oval

NTFL Team

B	Craig Williams (N'C)	Damien Berto (SM)	Brian Long (SM)
HB	Bob Leskovec (Wand)	Michael Athanasiou(SM)	Warren McCoy (ND)
C	Don Bonson (Dwn)	Maurice Rioli (SM)(c)	Gilbert McAdam (Tahs)
H _F	Tom Lawler (Dwn)	Cadji Dunn (SM)	Poncie Cubillo (Wand)
F	John Long (SM)	Dennis Dunn (SM)	Peter Filler (Wand)
R&R	David Croker (N'C)	Damien Christensen (SM)	Mark Motlop (N'C)
Inter	Peter McGann (N'C)	Michael Graham (SM)	David Russell (Wand)
	Cyril Rioli (SM)		
Coach	John Taylor		
Umpires	Craig Langham, Bruce Roy		

NTFL	6.4	8.9	13.16	15.19(109)
Essendon	3.2	5.2	10.4	14.6(90)

NTFL Best Players - D Christensen (Aust Day Medallist), McGann, Rioli, McCoy, Leskovec, McAdam

NTFL Goalkickers - D Dunn 4, C Dunn, J Long, Filler 2 ea, Motlop, McAdam, Christensen, Lawler, Rioli 1 each

24/1/87 NTFL defeated Sydney Swans at Gardens Oval

NTFL Team

B	Ted Liddy (SM)	Greg Bruce (Dwn)	Keith Baker (Tahs)
HB	Troy Ugle (Wand)	Michael Athanasiou (SM)	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)
C	Noel Long (SM)	Damien Berto (SM)	Gilbert McAdam (Tahs)
HF	Paul Motlop (N'C)	Cadji Dunn (SM)	Maurice Rioli (SM)(c)
F	William Briston (Dwn)	Dennis Dunn (SM)	Rod Joseph (Tahs)
R&R	Dusty Miller (Wand)	Peter Ivanoff (Tahs)	Mark Motlop (N'C)
Inter	Peter McGann (N'C)	Eddie Cubillo (Wand)	Jamie Krueger (Dwn)
	Steven Long (SM)		
Coach	John Taylor		
Umpires	Laurie Argent, Bob Major		

History of the NTFL

NTFL	3.4	9.6	13.10	17.16(118)	
Sydney Swans	1.3	2.7		6.9	7.9(51)
NTFL Best Players -	D Berto (Aust Day Medallist), Ugle, C Dunn, S Long, D Dunn				
NTFL Goalkickers -	S Long 5, D Dunn 4, M Rioli, C Dunn 2 ea, M Motlop, McGann, Briston, Millar 1 each				

23/1/88 NTFL defeated North Melbourne at Gardens Oval

NTFL Team

B	Brentley Hughes (Kath)	Rohan Helyar (N'C)	Greg Bruce (Dwn)
HB	Michael McLean (N'C)(c)	Michael Athanasiou(SM)	Brian Long (SM)
C	Noel Long (SM)	David Ross (Dwn)	Kelly O'Donnell (N'C)
HF	Tony Vigona (SM)	Damien Berto (SM)	Paul Motlop (N'C)
F	Peter McGann (N'C)	Dennis Dunn (SM)	John Long (SM)
R&R	Roy Cassetti (SM)	Joe Ah Mat (Dwn)	Mark Motlop (N'C)
Inter	William Briston (Dwn)	Jeff Callendar (ND)	Cyril Rioli (SM)
	Michael Long (SM)		
Coach	John Taylor		
Umpires	Hayden Kennedy, Bob Major		

NTFL	4.4	7.10	11.11	17.18(120)	
Nth Melbourne	5.1		6.5	8.9	12.11(83)
NTFL Best Players -	J Ah Mat (Aust Day Medallist), M Long, R Helyar, McLean, Bruce, Briston				
NTFL Goalkickers -	Dunn 4, Vigona 4, Ah Mat 3, Briston 3, Motlop 2, Hughes 1				

29/1/89 NTFL defeated Essendon at Gardens Oval

NTFL Team

B	Greg Bruce (Dwn)	Damien Berto (SM)	Ted Liddy (SM)
HB	Warren McCoy (ND)	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)	Brentley Hughes (SD)
C	Steven Stokes (Dwn)	Brian Long (SM)(c)	Noel Long (SM)
HF	Chris Long (SM)	Peter McGann (N'C)	Tony Vigona SM)
F	Mark Motlop (N'C)	Alan Jakovich (SD)	Dennis Dunn (SM)
R&R	Geoff Hodgson (SM)	Michael Long (SM)	William Briston (Dwn)
Inter	Kevin Quail (Dwn)	Dempsey Narkle (ND)	Eddie Cubillo (Wand)
	Willie Rioli (SM)		
Coach	John Taylor		
Umpires	Cedric Suradi, Ron Thompson		

NTFL	4.1	11.5	15.9	15.11 (101)	
Essendon	5.1		6.3	9.4	13.7(85)
NTFL Best Players-	P McGann (Aust Day Medallist), Bruce, M Long, Briston, Hughes, Jakovich				
NTFL Goalkickers -	Jakovich 6, Quail, C Long, McGann, Briston 2 each, Cubillo 1				

History of the NTFL

11/2/89 NTFL defeated Port Adelaide at Gardens Oval

NTFL Team

B	Ted Liddy (SM)	Damien Berto (SM)	Greg Bruce (Dwn)
HB	Warren McCoy (ND)	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)	Brentley Hughes (SD)
C	Noel Long (SM)	Michael Long (SM)	Eddie Cubillo (Wand)
HF	Chris Long (SM)	Peter McGann (N'C)	Tony Vigona (SM)
F	Dempsey Narlde (ND)	Alan Jakovich (SD)	Mark Motlop (N'C)
R&R	Geoff Hodgson (SM)	Darren Hammond (SM)	William Briston (Dwn)(c)
Inter	Steven Stokes (Dwn)	Lucio Baroni (Wand)	Dale Grundy (SM)
	Kevin Quall (Dwn)		
Coach	John Taylor		
Umpires	Gary Turbill, Brendan Schwab		

NTFL 1.5 5.8 8.11 11.20(86)

Port Adelaide 5.1 7.1 9.5 12.5 (77)

NTFL Best Players - M Long (B.O.G), N Long, Berto, Hughes, Vigona, Baroni, Briston NTFL Goalkickers - Jakovich 4, Vigona 3, McGann 2, C Long, Briston 1

27/1/90 St Kilda defeated NTFL at Gardens Oval

NTFL Team

B	Warren McCoy (ND)	Damien Berto (SM)	Gary Argus (Tahs)
HB	Greg Bruce (Dwn)	Michael Athanasiou(SM)	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)(c)
C	Noel Long (SM)	David Ross (Dwn)	Russell May (Dwn)
HF	Kevin Quail (Dwn)	Steve Grimmer (Wand)	James Sing (Dwn)
F	Brian Stanislaus (SM)	Peter McGann (N'C)	William Briston (Dwn)
R&R	Tom Smith (ND)	Steven Stokes (Dwn)	Paul Kemp (SD)
Inter	Brentley Hughes (SD)	Willie Rioli (SM)	Jason Jones (Dwn)
	E Cubillo (Wand)	D Cusack	
Coach	Ian Smith		
Umpires	Les Harrison, Cedric Suradi		

St Kilda 5.1 6.4 11.6 13.10(88) NTFL 2.1 5.4 7.4 11.8(74)

NTFL Best Players - B Hughes (Aust Day Medallist), N Long, Jeffrey, Stanislaus, Bruce, Athanasiou

NTFL Goalkickers - Stanislaus 4, McGann 2, Briston, Rioli, Ross, Jones, Sing 1 each

17/2/90 NTFL defeated Essendon at Gardens Oval

NTFL Team

B	Warren McCoy (ND)	Damien Berto (SM)	Greg Bruce (Dwn)
HB	Russell May (Tahs)	Michael Athanasiou (SM)	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)(C)
C	Noel Long (SM)	David Ross (Dwn)	Steven Stokes (Dwn)
HF	Kevin Quail (Dwn)	Peter McGann (N'C)	Brentley Hughes (SD)
F	Adrian McAdam (SD)	Gary Argus (Tahs)	Brian Stanislaus(SM)
R&R	Steve Grimmer (Wand)	Maurice Rioli (Tahs)	Willy Rioli (SM)
Inter	M Grummet (Tahs)	William Briston (Dwn)	Tony Vigona (SM)
	Michael Williams (Dwn)		
Coach	Ian Smith		
Umpires	Martin Carland, Cedric Suradi		

NTFL 4.7 7.12 10.15 14.23(107)

Essendon 3.1 6.4 10.7 11.11 (77)

NTFL Best Players - W Rioli, N Long, Stanislaus, McGann, Grimmer, M Rioli

NTFL Goalkickers - Stanislaus 3, McGann, Argus 2 each, McAdam, Quail, M Rioli, Ross, Long, W Rioli, Stokes 1 each

History of the NTFL

26/1/91 Hawthorn defeated NTFL at Gardens Oval

NTFL Team

B	Greg Bruce (Dwn)	Damien Berto (SM)	Steven Stokes (Dwn)
HB	Brentley Hughes (SD)	Michael Athanasiou(SM)	Russell Jeffrey(Wand)
C	Noel Long (SM)	Maurice Rioli (Tahs)(c)	Matthew Ah Mat (Dwn)
HF	Brian Stanislaus (SM)	Peter McOann (N'C)	Nathan Buckley (SD)
F	Chris Long (SM)	Dennis Dunn (SM)	Eddie Cubillo (N/C)
R&R	John VanRooy (Tahs)	Michael McLean (N'C)	Brad Collard (SM)
inter	Steve Grimmer (Wand)	Shane Hayes (Dwn)	Eric Muench (N'C)
	Damien Hale (SM)	Kevin Quail (Dwn)	Roger Smith (SD)
	Justin Cooke (Tahs)		
Coach	John Taylor		
Umpires	Craig Green, Bill Spencer		

Hawthorn 5.4 9.4 12.6 15.10(100) NTFL 0.3 5.6 7.9 8.11(59)

NTFL Best Players - M McLean (Aust Day Medallist), Jeffrey, Collard, Stanislaus, R Smith, M Rioli

NTFL Goalkickers - Stanislaus 3, C Long, D Dunn 2 ea, Collard 1

25/1/92 Geelong defeated NTFL at Football Park Marrara

NTFL Team

B	Damien Hale (SM)	Wayne Henwood (SM)	Damien Berto (SM)
HB	Brian Long (SM)	Tod Spearman (SM)	Russell Jeffrey(Wand)
C	Noel Long (SM)	Michael McLean (N'C) (C)	Nathan Buckley (SD)
HF	Willie Rioli (Tahs)	Michael Athanasiou(SM)	Michael Long (SM))
F	Steven Stokes (Dwn)	Dennis Dunn (SM)	Daryl White (Dwn)
R&R	Jason Jones (Dwn)	Matthew Ah Mat (Dwn)	Cyril Rioli (SM)
Inter	S Connelly (Wand)	Michael Townsend (ND)	Peter Reid (Dwn)
	Tommy Weetra (SM)		
Coach	John Taylor		
Umpires	Darren Goldspink (AFL), David Strybos, David Tiller		

Geelong 7.1 15.2 24.4 27.9(171)

NTFL 4.3 5.5 8.6 11.7(73)

NTFL Best Players - W Rioli (Aust Day Medallist), Stokes, Buckley, Jones, Berto

NTFL Goalkickers - Dunn 4, Buckley, Long, Rioli 2 ea, Jeffrey 1

30/1/93 Melbourne defeated NTFL at Football Park Marrara

NTFL Team

B	Peter Reid (Dwn)	Damien Berto (SM)	Victor Dunn (SM)
HB	Scott Chisholm (SM)	Michael Athanasiou (SM)	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)
C	Noel Long (SM)	Michael McLean (N'C) (c)	Nathan Buckley (SD)
HF	Chris Molloy (ND)	Steve Liddell (ND)	Michael Long (SM)
F	Fabian Francis (SD)	Darryl Taylor (Wand)	Brian Stanislaus(SM)
R&R	Jason Jones (Dwn)	Aaron Perry (SM)	Cyril Rioli (SM)
Inter	Sebastian Tipungwuti (Tabs)	Joel Howes (Tahs)	David Nolte(ND)
	Nathan Mourish (ND)	Tommy Weetra (SM)	Wayne McLennan (SM)
Coach	John Taylor		
Umpires	David Tiller, Warwick Bott		

History of the NTFL

Melbourne 2.3 4.3 4.5 8.6(54)
 NTFL 3.3 3.4 4.7 4.7(31)
 NTFL Best Players- S Chisholm (Aust Day Medallist), McLean, Francis, Jeffrey, Perry,
 Taylor, Jones, Reid
 NTFL Goalkickers - Francis, Perry, M Long, Stanislaus 1 each

29/1/94 Essendon defeated NTFL at Football Park Marrara

NTFL Team

B	David Parfitt (Dwn)	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)(c)	Peter Reid (Dwn)
HB	Andrew McLeod (Dwn)	Michael Athanasiou (SM)	Scott Chisholm (SM)
C	Robbie Ah Mat (Dwn)	Malty Christensen (SM)	Steven Stokes (Dwn)
HF	Adrian Collard (ND)	Brett Jukawics (Wand)	Graham Taylor (SD)
F	Willie Rioli (Tahs)	Daryl Taylor (Wand)	Adrian McAdam (N/M)
R&R	Nathan Mourish (ND)	Mark West (Dwn)	Chris Wall (Dwn)
Inter	Toby Jackson (N'C)	Steve Turner (SD)	Andy Viola (Wand)
	Clive Waterhouse (SM)		
Coach	John Taylor		
Umpires	David Tiller (NTFL), D Edwards (AFL), S McInemey (AFL)		

Essendon	4.3	9.5	14.6	18.8	(116)
NTFL	2.3		6.4	8.7	14.10(94)

NTFL Best Players- Jukawics (Aust Day Medallist), Jeffrey, Stokes, Christensen, West, Athanasiou
 NTFL Goalkickers- Collard 4, D Taylor 3, Rioli 2, Ah Mat, Wall, McAdam, G Taylor,
 Waterhouse 1 ea

28/1/95 NTFL defeated Fremantle Dockers at Football Park Marrara

NTFL Team

B	Peter Reid (Dwn)	Peter McGann (N'C)	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)[C]
HB	Andrew McLeod (Dwn)	Michael Athanasiou (SM)	John Lidgerwood (SM)
C	Tommy Weetra (SM)	Marly Christensen (SM)	Adam Kerinaiaua (ND)
HF	Adrian Collard (SD)	Gerard Atkins (SD)	Jerry Frank (Dwn)
F	Chris Williams (Dwn)	Dennis Dunn (SM)	Brian Stanislaus (SM)
R&R	Jason Jones (Dwn)	Mark West (Dwn)	Devon Perry (SM)
Inter	Darryl Taylor (Wand)	Ben Oakley (W'tahs)	Stefan Carey (SM)
	Shane Shewring (SD)	S Stokes (Dwn)	
Coach	John Taylor		
Umpires	H Kennedy (AFL), S McInemey (AFL), R Williams (AFL)		

NTFL		0.3	1.7	3.9	4.10(34)
Fremantle Dockers	0.1	2.2		4.6	4.9(33)

NTFL Best Players - D Perry (Aust Day Medallist), West, Jeffrey, Christensen, Stokes
 NTFL Goalkickers - Williams 2, Taylor, Frank 1 ea

The 1995 Australia Day match created history in it's own right by being the first representative match played under lights, and the game being the first official match for the new AFL club Fremantle Dockers. The NTFL is thankful to the new AFL club, and it's Coach Gerard Neesham for their contribution to the historic occasion. Incidentally, Gerard played a few games in Darwin for Saint Marys in the 1970's, and has maintained a close link with the Territory with his chosen sports of Australian football and water polo. Due to the bad weather conditions of heavy rain before and during the day of the game, the match was the lowest scoring game since the Australia Day matches started in 1985.

History of the NTFL

From 1985 to 1995, the NTFL has played 13 Australia Day and other representative matches in Darwin against clubs from the SANFL and VFL/AFL. The NTFL teams won the first seven, lost the next five, and won the last of the representative matches. Apart from the bad losses to Hawthorn and Geelong, the NTFL teams showed that they were competitive in their other three defeats against St Kilda, Melbourne and Essendon.

The NTFL is indebted to the Essendon Football Club and especially Coach Kevin Sheedy for their support of the Australia Day and other representative matches. Essendon featured in four of the 13 matches, and have shown they are not backwards in helping promote Australian football outside their home state of Victoria. Being the astute coach with a long range vision, Kevin Sheedy saw the advantages of preparing his team for long distance travel and varied weather conditions which would result from the AFL competition expanding to Perth and Brisbane.

1988 NFL BICENTENNIAL AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL CARNIVAL

One of the Northern Territory's greatest achievements was winning the Second Division Championship in Adelaide with wins against Tasmania, Australian Amateurs and Victorian Football Association (VFA). Michael Long, Michael McLean and Maurice Rioli were selected in the All Australian team.

The following details show the Northern Territory team line-ups, quarter by quarter scores, NT Best Players and NT Goalkickers:

2/3/88 NT defeated Tasmania

NT Team

B	Damien Berto (SM)	Rohan Helyar (N'C)	Greg Bruce (Dwn)
HB	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)	Michael Athanasiou (SM)	Brian Long (SM)
C	Kelly O'Donnell (N'C)	Michael McLean (N'C)	Willie Roe (SM)
HF	Tony Vigona (SM)	Cadji Dunn (SM)	Maurice Rioli (SM)[C]
F	Mark Motlop (N'C)	Dennis Dunn (SM)	Bob Jones (W'tahs)
R&R	Roy Cassetti (SM)	Joe Ah Mat (Dwn)	William Briston (Dwn)
Inter	Michael Long (SM)	Cyril Rioli (SM)	Adrian Moscheni (SM)
	Peter McGann (N'C)		
Coach	John Taylor		
Umpires	R Kinnear (SA) M Kelly (TAS)		

NT	3.5	6.12	13.18	19.20(134)
Tasmania	3.1	4.3	7.5	10.8(68)
NT Best Players -	McLean, M Long, Rioli, Briston, D Dunn			
NT Goalkickers -	D Dunn 5, Vigona 4, M Long 3, Roe, Moscheni 2 ea, Ah Mat, Rioli, Briston 1 ea			

3/3/88 NT defeated Australian Amateurs

NT Team

B	Joe Ah Mat (Dwn)	Rohan Helyar (N'C)	Greg Bruce (Dwn)
HB	Brentley Hughes (SD)	Michael Athanasiou (SM)	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)
C	Eddie Cubillo (Wand)	Michael McLean (N'C)	Adrian Moscheni (SM)
HF	Tony Vigona (SM)	Bob Jones (W'tahs)	Maurice Rioli (SM)(c)
F	Paul Motlop (N'C)	Dennis Dunn (SM)	Willie Rioli (SM)
R&R	Roy Cassetti (SM)	Michael Long (SM)	Mark Motlop (N'C)
Inter	Peter McGann (N'C)	Kevin Wanganeen (Wand)	Cadji Dunn (SM)
	Willie Roe (SM)		
Coach	John Taylor		
Umpires	S Semmler (SA)	J Ferme (Aust Amateurs)	

History of the NTFL

NT	0.4	3.9	4.14	11.19 (85)
Aust Amateurs	2.3	2.4	6.7	8.9 (57)
NT Best Players -	Rioli, D Dunn, Helyar, Ah Mat, Jones, M Motlop			
NT Goalkickers -	D Dunn 7, Roe 2, M Motlop, M Long 1 ea			

5/3/88 NT defeated VFA

NT Team

B	Damien Berto (SM)	Rohan Helyar (N'C)	Greg Bruce (Dwn)
HB	Michael McLean (N'C)	Michael Athanasiou (SM)	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)
C	Joe Ah Mat (Dwn)	Brian Long (SM)	Willie Roe (SM)
HF	Tony Vigona (SM)	Cadji Dunn (SM)	Maurice Rioli (SM)(c)
F	Bob Jones (W'tahs)	Dennis Dunn (SM)	Mark Motlop (N'C)
R&R	Roy Cassetti (SM)	Michael Long (SM)	William Briston (Dwn)
Inter	Cyril Rioli (SM)	Brentley Hughes (SD)	Paul Motlop (N'C)
	Adrian Moscheni (SM)		
Coach	John Taylor		
Umpires	D Trembath (SA)	G Morrow (V.F.A)	
NT		4.3	10.4
VFA	2.2	6.4	7.8
			17.10(112)
			9.13(67)

NT Best Players - McLean, M Long, Ah Mat, Athanasiou, M Rioli, Cassetti

NT Goalkickers - D Dunn 4, M Long, McLean 3 ea, Ah Mat, Briston 2 ea, Jones, Vigona, P Motlop 1 ea

Two important matches played in 1994 which gained tremendous exposure for Darwin football in the southern states were the Aboriginal All Stars/Collingwood game played on 12 February, and the NTFL/VFA game played on 9 April.

The Aboriginal All Stars/Collingwood game attracted national attention, as it was billed as a reconciliation of racism in sport particularly Australian Football. The match was played at Football Park Marrara, and was attended by the Prime Minister Paul Keating and media personnel from the southern states. The match was televised by Channel 7 for delayed telecast to Victorian, South Australian and West Australian viewers.

The Aboriginal All Stars won an entertaining match which featured all the highlights of Australian Football such as tough tackling, team work, speed, high marking and hand passes. The team comprised Aboriginal footballers from all states and territories including AFL players Chris Lewis and Troy Ugle (West Coast Eagles), Dale Kickett (Essendon), Jamie Lawson (Sydney Swans), and Derek Kickett (Essendon/Sydney Swans).

There were 16 NTFL or former NTFL players in the squad of 25. Current NTFL players were Jason Cockatoo, Dennis Dunn, Leon Hayden, Russell Jeffrey, Jason Jones, Adam Kerinaiaua, Graham Puruntutameri, Cyril and Willie Rioli, and Michael Rotumah. Former NTFL players who played with AFL clubs were Warren Campbell, Matthew Ah Mat, Fabian Francis, Gilbert McAdam, Michael McLean and Darryl White.

Aboriginal All Stars	3.4	6.7	11.8	13.10(88)
Collingwood	3.3	4.6	7.7	10.8(68)

The match was umpired by AFL Umpires Hayden Kennedy, Murray Bird and Geoff Caulfield. The crowd attendance was 11 000 plus.

History of the NTFL

The second 1994 match was between the NTFL and the VFA and played at Victoria Park, Melbourne. Details of the match:

NTFL/VFA game played at Victoria Park, Melbourne on 9/4/94

NTFL Team

B	Devon Perry (SM)	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)(c)	Jason Cockatoo (SD)
HB	Scott Chisholm (SM)	Michael Athanasiou (SM)	Andrew McLeod (Dwn)
C	Robbie Ah Mat (Dwn)	Marty Christensen (SM)	Adam Kerinaiaua (ND)
HF	Brian Stanislaus (SM)	Peter McGann (N'C)	Kevin Quail (Dwn)
F	Chris Wall (Dwn)	Dennis Dunn (SM)	Adrian Collard (SD)
R&R	Jason Jones (Dwn)	Mark West (Dwn)	Willie Rioli (Tails)
Inter	Ken Howe (SM)	Eddie Cubillo (Wand)	Steve Turner (SD)
	Shane Shewring (SM)		
Coach	John Taylor		
Umpire	Wes Mann (VIC)	Colin Segota (VIC)	

NTFL	1.6	8.8	11.10	15.13 (103)
VFA	2.0	3.1	8.5	12.8 (80)

Best Players NTFL - McLeod, West, Athanasiou, Jeffrey, Cockatoo

Goalkickers NTFL - Dunn 5, Collard, Quell, Stanislaus, Wall 2 ea,
McGann, McLeod 1 each

The VFA invited the NTFL to Melbourne to settle it's nagging belief that it was a better side although defeated by the NTFL in the 1988 Bi-Centennial Second Division Championship. Also, the VFA believed it was the best side outside the AFL competition as it had convincingly defeated Tasmania in 1994.

Preparation by the NTFL for the match was difficult, as the game was played three weeks after the NTFL Grand Final, which meant that players outside the St Marys and Darwin teams had to overcome a long lay-off period to regain match fitness.

Although the VFA was at full strength and a lot stronger physical side, it's players were found wanting trying to curb the pace and skills of the NTFL players whose commitment, discipline and team spirit enabled them to take the lead in the second quarter which they never relinquished.

1995 was certainly an historic year for the NTFL, starting with the Fremantle Dockers match on Australia Day, followed by Darwin hosting Australia's first International Australian Football competition during the Arafura Sports Festival from 6 to 13 May, and finally the first Inter-Territories match between the NT and ACT on 27 May.

27/5/95 NT defeated ACT at Football Park Marrara

NTFL Team

B	Peter Reid (Dwn)	David Totham (Wand)	Brad Mawson (Wand)
HB	Cyril Rioli (SM)	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)(c)	Stuart Sceney (SM)
C	Tommy Weetra (5M)	Marty Christensen (SM)	Adam Kerinaiaua (ND)
HF	Aaron Perry (SM)	Jason Cockatoo (SD)	Brian Stanislaus (SM)
F	Fabian Francis (SD)	Dennis Dunn (SM)	Jerry Frank (Dwn)
R&R	Peter McGann (N'C)	Mark West (Dwn)	Chris Williams (Dwn)
Inter	Kevin Quall (Dwn)	Bill Feeney Jnr (SD)	Bradley Copeland (SD)
	Michael Spry (SD)		
Coach	John Taylor		
Umpires	Scott James (NT), David Tiller (NT)		

History of the NTFL

NT	2.5	4.6	8.8	11.11(77)
ACT	2.3	7.8	9.12	9.16(70)
NT Best Players -	West, Francis, Weetra, Cockatoo, Feeney, Williams			
NT Goalkickers-	Dunn, Stanislaus 2 ea, Francis, West, Weetra, McGann, Cockatoo, Kerinaua, Williams 1 ea			

ARAFURA SPORTS FESTIVAL 6/5/95 TO 13/5/95

There were nine teams competing in this first ever International Australian Rules Football competition held during the Arafura Sports Festival in Darwin. The competition was divided into two groups: Group One comprised the NTFL, Cairns Casaly, Australian Defence Force and the Diamond Valley League team from Melbourne. Group Two comprised International teams from Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Nauru, Japan/Singapore and Hong Kong.

The Group Two competition was won by Papua New Guinea over New Zealand after an entertaining game which showed that both countries have made progress in the internal development of Australian Rules football. Papua New Guinea has a seven team competition in Port Moresby and a four team competition in Lae. New Zealand has a six team competition in Auckland and a four team competition in Wellington.

The NTFL was successful in winning the Group One competition by beating a determined Diamond Valley League team in the Final. Scores against the Group One teams are as follows:

7/5/95

NTFL	2.2	5.3	8.4	12.6(78)
Cairns Cazaly	2.0	2.0	2.1	3.3 (21)

8/5/95

NTFL	6.1	12.2	13.4	15.4(94)
Diamond Valley	0.0	0.1	1.2	2.2(14)

10/5/95

NTFL	2.9	3.10	6.11	8.12(60)
ADF	1.0	3.2	4.5	5.6(36)

The Group One Final between the NTFL and the Diamond Valley League played on 12/5/95 resulted in a 52 point win to the NTFL. The NTFL line-up, quarter by quarter scores, best players and goalkickers are as follows:

NTFL Team

B	Peter Reid (Dwn)	David Totham (Wand)	Jason Cockatoo (SD)
HB	Brad Mawson (Wand)	Michael Athanasiou (SM)	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)(c)
C	Michael Spry (SD)	Marty Christensen (SM)	Bill Feeney Jnr (SD)
HF	Brian Stanislaus (SM)	Dennis Dunn (SM)	Jerry Frank (Dwn)
F	Cyril Rioli (SM)	Jody Arnol (Dwn)	Aaron Perry (SM)
R&R	Jason Jones (Dwn)	Mark West (Dwn)	Chris Williams (Dwn)
Inter	Shane Shewring (SD)	Peter McGann (N'C)	Anthony Hobart (Tahs)
	Bradley Copeland (SD)	John Lidgerwood (SM)	Adrian Moscheni (SM)
Coach	Russell Jeffrey		
Umpires	Scott James (NT), A Biggins (ADF), M Thomson (WAFL)		

History of the NTFL

NTFL	3.4	5.7	9.9	13.13(91)
Diamond Valley League	2.1	3.3	4.5	5.9(39)
NTFL Best Players - West, Feeney, Jones, Athanasiou, Stanislaus				
NTFL Goalkickers - Dunn, Stanislaus 3 ca, Arnol, Cockatoo 2 ca, Hoban, McGann, Athanasiou				
1 ea				

With wins in Darwin from 1985 to 1995 in the Australia Day matches, Arafura Games competition, and the inter-territory match plus successes against the QAFL in Brisbane in 1974, the Bicentennial Second Division Championship in Adelaide in 1988 and against the VFA in Melbourne in 1994, the NTFL has shown that it is competitive against teams in and outside the AFL AND SANFL on either home or interstate grounds. The main reasons for the NTFL teams becoming more competitive are:

inclusion of former NTFL players who were or have become established players in the VFL/ AFL and other major southern leagues e.g. Maurice Rioli, Michael McLean and Russell Jeffrey, inclusion of a number of players from the southern competitions playing in the NTFL competition. Most of the players were selected to add height and weight to the representative teams, the improved standard of the local players.

The improved standard of the local players is due to the following-

benefits received from the NT Football Development Foundation's junior development program. concentrated coaching at the primary and secondary schoolboys level, playing experience gained at primary and secondary schoolboys NT and National Championships, Teal Cup competition, playing alongside and against players from southern competitions, experience gained playing in representative matches.

SECONDARY SCHOOLBOYS CHAMPIONSHIPS/TEAL CUP (NOW COMMONWEALTH CUP)

The springboard for today's NTFL champions has been the Secondary Schoolboys and TEAL Cup (now Commonwealth Cup) competitions. The NT entered the Secondary Schoolboys National Championships in 1974, and the TEAL Cup competition in 1979.

Local players who are former or present AFL players in Michael McLean, Russell Jeffrey, Gilbert and Adrian McAdam, Michael Long and Nathan Buckley all had their first taste of playing in a national competition at either or both the Secondary Schoolboys and TEAL Cup level.

Territory Thunder Best & Fairest

	Under 18	Under 16
1996/97	M Whelan	E Bray
1997/98		
1998/99		
1999/00		
2000/01		
2001/02		

History of the NTFL

The Coaches and Captains of the NT Secondary Schoolboys teams were:

Year	Win/Loss	Coach	Captain
1974	0/6	Les Rauert	Michael Ahkit
1975	2/3/1	Maurie Ryan	David Harrison
1976	2/4/0	Maurie Ryan	Kimberley Hunter
1977	4/3/0	Les Rauert	Lawrence Rioli
1978	3/4/0	Les Rauert	Wayne McMahon
1979	3/4/0	Russell Totham	Geoff Nourse
1980	4/3/0	Brian Deslandes	Eddie Cubillo
1981	4/2/1	Brian Deslandes	Michael McLean
1982	4/3/0	Brian Deslandes	Cyril Rioli
1983	6/1/0	Peter Atkinson	Damien Berto
1984	1/6/0	Brian Deslandes	Nathan Senge
1985	2/5/0	Brian Deslandes	Scott Crosby
1986	2/5/0	Brian Deslandes	Smart Totham
1987	2/5/0	Brian Deslandes	Tommy Weetra
1988	1/6/0	Brian Deslandes	Willie Rioli
1989	4/3/0	Brian Deslandes	Richard Guit
1990	2/5/0	Rod Diggle	Matthew Ah Mat
1991	0/6/0	John Scully	Bradley Copeland
1992	2/4/0	Rod Diggle	Shaun Cusack
1993	0/5/0	Rod Diggle	Robbie Ah Mat
1994	2/3/0	Rod Diggle	Steven Koops
1995	1/4/0	Rod Diggle	Jon Ahkit
1996	1/3/0	Rod Diggle	Shannon Rusca
1997	2/2	Wally Gallio	Jarrod Illett
1998			Ezra Bray
1999			
2000			
2001			

The Northern Territory's best performance was when the team finished equal first in 1983 in Canberra, and equal second in 1989 when the NT hosted the Championships in Darwin. Territory players to win the Best & Fairest award at the Championships were Michael Heenan in 1978, Willie Rioli in 1987, Shaun Cusack in 1992 and Joel Bowden in 1994.

NT players selected In All Australian teams:

1974	Michael Ahkit (W'tahs)
1975	Emmanuel Rioli (SM), Kimberley Hunter (Dwn), Greg McAdam (A/Springs)
1976	Stephen Fenton (N'C), Victor Galngarr (Wand)
1977	Lawrence Rioli (SM)
1978	Michael Heenan (SM), Tommy Nickels (W'tahs)
1979	Joe Ah Mat (Dwn), David Cusack (SM)
1980	Adrian Moscheni (SM), Eddie Cubillo (SM), Johnathan Nadji (Dwn)
1981	Tony Lake (A/S), Tony Taylor (Wand), Michael McLean (N'C), John Long (SM)
1982	Cyril Rioli (SM), David Ross (W'tahs), Tony Lake (A/S)
1983	Damien Berto (SM), David Ross (W'tahs), Tony Vigona (SM), Mark Harwood (A/S), Stephen Briston (Dwn)
1984	Wayne McLennan (SM)
1985	Wayne McLennan (SM), Michael Cameriao (SM)
1986	Smart Totham (Wand), Geoff Regan (A/S)
1987	Willie Rioli (SM), Tommy Weetra (SM)
1988	Roger Smith (S/D), David Regan (A/S)

History of the NTFL

1989	Richard Guit (Wand), Wayne Braun (A/S), Willie McLennan (SM)
1990	Matthew Ah Mat (Dwn), Bradley Copeland (S/D)
1991	Mark Ryan (W'tahs), Shaun Cusack (Wand)
1992	Shaun Cusack (Wand), Andrew McLeod (Dwn)
1993	Robbie Ah Mat (Dwn)
1994	Steven Koops (S/D), Joel Bowden (A/S)
1995	
1996	Ben Mack (Sthn Alice)
1997	Shaun Angeles (Pioneers), Ezra Bray (SM)
1998	
1998	Alwyn Davey (Magp), Adam Taylor (West Alice)
1999	
2000	Cameron Ilett (SM), Raphael Clarke (SM)
2001	Jono Mullins, Richard Tambling

TEAL Cup Coaches, Captains and games win/loss record are as follows:

Year	Venue	Win/Loss	Coach	Captain
1979	Hobart	1-2	Tony Shaw	Brian Long
1980	Perth	1-2	Peter Atkinson	Geoff Nourse
1981	Melbourne	2-1	Michael Kenneally	Eddie Cubillo
1982	Brisbane	1-2	Michael Kenneally	Adam Hayes
1983	Darwin	2-1	Michael Kenneally	Cyril Rioli
1984	Sydney	0-3	Steve Abala	Damien Berto
1985	Perth	1-2	Peter Atkinson	Shaun Hardy
1986	Adelaide	3-1	Peter Atkinson	Murray Liddle
1987	Hobart	3-1	Peter Atkinson	Smart Totham
1988	Canberra	2-2	Peter Atkinson	Adrian McAdam
1989	Melbourne	2-3	Peter Atkinson	Willie Rioli
1990	Brisbane	2-2	Rod Diggle	Lachlan Ross
1991	Darwin	3-1	Peter Atkinson	Wayne Allard
1992	Melbourne	1-4	Danny Jenkins	Bradley Copeland
1993	Adelaide	0-4	Peter Atkinson	Shaun Cusack
1994	Perth	1-3	Russell Jeffrey	Shaun Lew Fatt
1995	Wagga Wagga	3-1	Russell Jeffrey	Steven Koops
1996	Melbourne	0-3	John Clarke	Peter Burgoyne
1997	Melbourne	1-2	Wally Gallio	Dylan Hale
1998		0-3	Wally Gallio	Shannon Rusca
1999			Wally Gallio	Shaun Angeles
2000				
2001				

The Northern Territory competed in the Second Division of the TEAL Cup competition and won the Division Championship in 1986 in Adelaide, 1987 in Hobart and 1991 in Darwin.

NT players selected in the All-Australian teams:

1979	Cadji Dunn (SM)
1980	Geoff Nourse (SM)
1981	Lindsay Brand (W'tahs), Johnathan Nadji (Dwn)
1982	John Roberts (SM)
1983	Tony Lake (A/S), Andrew Moo (Dwn), David Ross (W'tahs)
1984	David Ross (W'tahs)
1985	Murray Liddle (A/S)
1986	Steven Stokes (Dwn)
1987	Stuart Totham (Wand), Graham Hampton (A/S)
1988	Adrian McAdam (A/S)
1989	Richard Gerke (A/S)
1990	Daryl White (A/S)
1991	Wayne Allard (N'C), Matthew Ah Mat (Dwn)
1992	Mark Ryan (W'tahs)
1993	Mark Ryan (W'tahs)
1994	Shaun Lew Fatt (S/D)
1995	Steven Koops (S/D), Peter Burgoyne (SM)
1996	
1997	Aaron Shattock (S/D)
1998	
1999	Shaun Angeles (Pioneers)
2000	Danny Motlop, Richard Cole (A/S)
2001	Xavier Clarke (S/M)

History of the NTFL

Peter Atkinson was selected as All Australian Coach in 1987 and 1991.

Mark Ryan (1992) and Steven Koops (1995) also won the Harrison Medal for Best & Fairest player in the Second Division of the Teal Cup competition.

The real initiation of junior footballers into the national scene is the primary schools competition. Since the Northern Territory entered the competition in 1975, it has had reasonable success with the Territory finishing First in 1979, and equal First in 1986. Territory players to have won the competition's Best & Fairest award were Cyril Rioli in 1979 and Nathan Senge in 1980.

The hard dedicated work put in by school teachers and parents in the Territory's primary and secondary schools, coaches of the NTFL clubs' junior teams, the NT Football Development Foundation and its predecessor the NT Junior Football Council have contributed towards the improvement of the overall skills standard of the Territory's up and coming footballers, and has assisted in easing their transition to senior and representative competition.

*NTFL v Geelong
Australia Day 25/1 /92*

History of the NTFL

13. NORTHERN TERRITORY FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (NTFDF)

During the late 1960's the NTFL Junior Football Council was formed funded by the proceeds of the annual pre-season Umpires Knockout Carnival and a gate royalty levied on the nett NTFL gate-takings. The role of the Junior Football Council became linked to the creation of the full-time NT Coaching Director whose position was subsidized by the NT Government from 1983.

Following a restructuring at National level and a request to all States and Territories to comply with the National Development Plan a formal arm of the NTFL was created. Majority funded by the AFL the NT Football Development Foundation was created in October 1991 taking responsibility for development of Australian Football throughout the Northern Territory.

The Football Development Foundation works J closely with the six NT affiliated Leagues to implement the National Development Plan whose co-ordination was taken over in January 1995 by the Australian Football Foundation following the demise of the National Australian Football Council.

NTFL v VFA, April 1994

The Foundation has a wide range of functions, but the key ones include talent identification for AFL clubs, coach, sports trainer, administration and umpire development along with coordination of under-age representative teams and National primary and youth programmes. The development and support for player, coach and umpire career paths has improved dramatically since the Foundation's creation in 1991, with achievements at national level and within the NT far out of proportion to it's population base.

The inaugural NTFDF Chairman in 1991 was Hunter Harrison MBE who was succeeded by former CAFL (Alice Springs) President John Amadio, both of whom have been recognised for their services to football with Merit Awards by the national body.

The Foundation Board includes representatives of government, umpires, school sports, rural regions as well as accounting and commercial expertise.

Peter Atkinson, NT Coaching Director since 1985, has also filled the role of Foundation General Manager since 1991 with staff support including permanent positions in Alice Springs and seasonal limited tenure staff linked to the NT's southern and northern football seasons.

History of the NTFL

The NT Football Development Foundation has worked hard to achieve its goals in accordance with the National Plan and to satisfy the main funding sources, the AFL and NT Government in their specific goals. It has been active in promoting Australian football in Territory schools, Aboriginal communities and other NT Centres. The Foundation has conducted numerous football clinics, and has managed to obtain top football identities including Stan Alves (St Kilda Coach), Robert Walls (Brisbane Bears Coach), Dennis Pagan (Nth Melbourne Coach), David Wheadon (Essendon Specialist Coach), the Territory's AFL players in Michael McLean and Gilbert McAdam, plus players from the AFL clubs participating in the Australia Day matches to assist with the clinics. The presence of top southern football identities has been a drawcard for the clinics.

The Foundation's future includes the expansion to a Northern Australia Football Foundation involving responsibility for northern areas of Western Australia and Queensland as the NT Development agency plays a key role in maintaining Australian Football's premier position in Northern Australia sport.

NTFL v Essendon Australia Day 29/1/94

History of the NTFL

14. NT NEWSTEAM OF THE YEAR/TOYOTA TOP 20/ TEAM OF TWO DECADES

NT NEWS TEAM OF THE YEAR

The *NTNews* Team of the Year evolved from a meeting in 1978 convened by NTFL official Ray McHenry, with *NTNews* Sportswriter Fred McCue and football identity Paddy Leverence. The trio believed that such a team was required to maintain the interest of players and supporters, as well as give recognition to the efforts and performances of NTFL footballers on a season-by-season basis.

The first *NT News* Team of the Year for 1978/79 was selected by the inaugural panel of Ray McHenry, Fred McCue and Paddy Leverence. Membership of the panel changed annually, with the current panel comprising the Chief Football Writer and the NT News Football tipsters.

The early *NT News* Team of the Year players received a scroll showing their selection. Since the early 1990's, the players receive a team guernsey in addition to the scroll.

The continuity of the *NT News* Team of the Year from 1978/79 was broken in 1986/87 and 1987/ 88 when no teams were selected.

1978/79

B	Hank McPhee (Tahs)	John Patterson (Dwn)	Warren McCoy (Nth Dwn)
HB	John Tye (N'cliff)	Greg Peris (N'cliff)	Gary Jessup (Nth Dwn)
C	Richard Manogue (Wand)	Peter Hofner (N'cliff)	Ted Liddy (St Marys)
HF	Michael Graham (St Marys)	Tom Thorne (Dwn)	Craig Porter (N'cliff)
F	Alan Oates (N'cliff) (c)	Martin White (N'cliff)	Fabian Davey (Nth Dwn)
R&R	Hans Heystraten (St Marys)	Tony Dragun (N'cliff)	Mark Motlop (N'cliff)
19th	John Rafferty (Wand)		
20th	Robbie Wilkinson (Nth Dwn)		
Coach	Bob Elix (N'cliff)		

1979/80

B	Greg Bonson (Dwn)	Alan Blight (Nth Dwn)	Mick Lovison (Nth Dwn)
HB	John Tye (N'cliff)	Greg Morris (Nth Dwn)	Errol McCoy (Nth Dwn)
C	Terry Wilkins (Tahs)	Gerard Neesham (St Marys)	Joel McLennon (Nth Dwn)
HF	Joe Daby (N'cliff)	Tom Thorne (Dwn)	Tom Lawler (Dwn)
F	John Stokes (Nth Dwn)	Trevor Sutton (N'cliff)	Dave Roberts (Tahs)
R&R	Ray Boyanich (N'cliff)	Hank McPhee (Tahs)(c)	Mark Motlop (N'cliff)
Inter	Ross McGorman (Wand)	Derek Gibson (N'cliff)	
Coach	Jeff Bates (Dwn)		

1980/81

B	Errol McCoy (Nth Dwn)	Jeff Harrop (Wand)	Neville Brand (Tahs)
HB	Paul Nikoletos (Wand)	Peter Hoy (Tahs)	Brian Long (St Marys)
C	Peter Belford (Nth Dwn)	Gus Wanganeen (Wand)	Warren McCoy (Nth Dwn)
HF	Peter Stennett (Wand)	Geoff Sambell (N'cliff)	Steven Long (St Marys)
F	Russell Sparkes (Nth Dwn)	Peter Munro (Nth Dwn)	Ron Lee (Nth Dwn)
R&R	Des Hindson (Wand)	Eddy Kitching (Dwn)	Joe Daby (N'cliff)
Inter	Skenda Dikoli (St Marys)	Ian Rainbird (St Marys)	
Coach	Steve Abala		

History of the NTFL

NT NEWS TEAM OF THE YEAR (cont'd)

1981/82

B	Alberto Cubillo (St Marys)	Geoff Hill (St Marys)	Gary Johnston (Dwn)
HB	Brian Long (St Marys)	Rod McPhee (Tahs)	Jeff Harrop (Wand)
C	Ted Liddy (St Marys) (c)	Les Myles (St Marys)	Willy Roe (St Marys)
HF	Paul Nikoletos (Wand)	Peter Filler (Wand)	Robbie Cooper (Dwn)
F	Hans Heystraten (St Marys)	Doug Kelly (Wand)	Jack McCormick (St Marys)
R&R	Brian Hood (N'cliff)	Peter Ivanoff (Tahs) (v.c)	Mark Motlop (N'cliff)
Inter	Don Bonson (Dwn)	Paul Motlop (N'cliff)	
Coach	Peter Atkinson		

1982/83

B	Joe Jeffrey (Wand)	Rohan Helyar (N'cliff)	Don Bonson (Dwn)
HB	Brian Long (St Marys)	Tony Lehman (Nth Dwn)	Rod McPhee (St Marys)
C	Wayne Parish (Nth Dwn)	Gus Wanganeen (Wand) (c)	Alfie May (Tahs)
HF	Peter Belford (Nth Dwn) (v.c)	Paul Nikoletos (Wand)	Eddie Cubillo (Wand)
F	Kevin Wanganeen (Wand)	Trevor Sutton (N'cliff)	Peter Munro (Nth Dwn)
R&R	Alex Ischenko (N'cliff)	Michael Athanasiou (St Marys)	Poncie Cubillo (Wand)
Inter	Adrian Moscheni (St Marys)	Wayne Catty (Nth Dwn)	
Coach	Steve Abala (Wand)		

1983/84

B	Joe Ah Mat (Dwn)	John Paterson (Dwn) (v.c)	Nuds Cammarano (Nth Dwn)
HB	Brian Long (St Marys)	Michael Athanasiou (St Marys)	Ingvar Dyrting (N'cliff)
C	David Peris (N'cliff)	Grant Boucher (Nth Dwn) (c)	Ben Vigona (St Marys)
HF	Ricky Anderson (Dwn)	Peter Filler (Wand)	Michael Roe (St Marys)
F	John Long (St Marys)	Peter Munro (Nth Dwn)	Ron Barrett (N'cliff)
R&R	Glen Petrie (Nth Dwn)	David Russell (Wand)	Ninny Briston (Dwn)
Inter	Rod McPhee (St Marys)	Steve Larder (Tahs)	
Coach	Ian Smith (Dwn)		

1984/85

B	Damien Berto (St Marys)	John Paterson (Dwn) (v.c)	Brian Long (St Marys)
HB	Warren McCoy (Nth Dwn)	Michael Athanasiou (St Marys)	Ted Liddy (St Marys)(c)
C	Mark Motlop (N'cliff)	Tom Smith (Nth Dwn)	Noel Long (St Marys)
HF	Darin Weetra (St Marys)	Cadji Dunn (St Marys)	Geoff Morris (Wand)
F	Steve Thomson (St Marys)	Dennis Dunn (St Marys)	Mark Housley (St Marys)
R&R	David Croker (N'cliff)	Don Bonson (Dwn)	John Long (St Marys)
Inter	Simon Meehan (Tahs)	Ninny Briston (Dwn)	
Coach	John Taylor (St Marys)		

1985/86

B	Damien Berto (St Marys)	Craig Porter (N'cliff)	Don Bonson (Dwn)
HB	Shaun Hardy (St Marys)	Michael Athanasiou (SM)	Warren McCoy (Nth Dwn)
C	Poncie Cubillo (Wand)	Brian Long (St Marys)	Gilbert McAdam (Tahs)
HF	David Russell (Wand)	Peter Filler (Wand)	Wayne McLennan (St Marys)
F	John Long (St Marys)	Dennis Dunn (St Marys)	Peter McGann (N'cliff)
R&R	David Croker (N'cliff)	Damien Christensen (St Marys)	Mark Motlop (N'cliff)
Inter	Scott Barber (Tahs)	Bob Leskovec (Wand)	
Coach	John Taylor (St Marys)		

History of the NTFL

NT NEWS TEAM OF THE YEAR (cont'd)

1986/87 - No team selected

1987/88 - No team selected

1988/89

B	Greg Brace (Dwn)	Damien Berto (St Marys)	Ted Liddy (St Marys)(c)
HB	Butch Baroni (Wand)	Peter McGann (N'cliff)	Ingvar Dyrting (N'cliff)
C	Noel Long (St Marys)	Michael Long (St Marys)	Poncie Cubillo (Wand)
HF	Chris Long (St Marys)	Dempsey Narkle (Nth Dwn)	Brentley Hughes (Sthn Dist)
F	Dennis Dunn (St Marys)	Alan Jakovich (Sthn Dist)	Ninny Briston (Dwn)
R&R	Greg Hodson (St Marys)	Tim Dudley (Nth Dwn)	Willie Rioli (St Marys)
Inter	Cyril Rioli (St Marys)	Tod Hartley (N'cliff)	Steve Grimmer (Wand)
	Dale Grundy (St Marys)		
Coach	John Taylor (St Marys)		

1989/90

B	Greg Bruce (Dwn)	Damien Berto (St Marys)	Gary Argus (Tahs)
HB	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)(c)	Michael Athanasiou (St Marys)	Warren McCoy (Nth Dwn)
C	Brian Stanislaus (St Marys)	Noel Long (St Marys)	Russell May (Tahs)
HF	Jamie Macri (Tahs)	Peter McGann (N'cliff)	Brentley Hughes (Sthn Dist)
F	Ian Cox (Sthn Dist)	Martin Pettit (Wand)	Steven Hayes (Dwn)
R&R	Steve Grimmer (Wand)	Steven Stokes (Dwn)	Paul Kemp (Sthn Dist)
Inter	Mark Motlop (N'cliff)	Ninny Briston (Dwn)	Mac Grummett (Tahs)
	Shane Shewring (Sthn Dist)		
Coach	Maurice Rioli (Tahs)		

1990/91

B	Ted Liddy (St Marys)	David Atkinson (Dwn)	John Van Rooy(Tahs)
HB	Jason Watson (Tahs)	Michael Athanasiou (St Marys)(c)	Todd Hartley (N'cliff)
C	Noel Long (St Marys)	Maurice Rioli (Tahs)	Matthew Ah Mat (Dwn)
HF	Brian Stanislaus (St Marys)	Nathan Buckley (Sthn Dist)	Craig Simon (N'cliff)
F	Steven Hayes (Dwn)	Mark Spence (N'cliff)	Cyril Rioli (St Marys)
R&R	Eric Muench (N'cliff)	Michael McLean (N'cliff)	Dennis Slattery (Tahs)
Inter	Philip Rout (Wand)	Roger Smith (Sthn Dist)	David Totham (Wand)
	Michael Carey (N'cliff)		
Coach	Mark Motlop (N'cliff)		

1991/92

B	Chris Molloy (Nth Dwn)	Brett Jukawics (Wand)	Brad Mawson (Wand)
HB	Damian Hale (St Marys)	Michael Athanasiou (St Marys)(c)	Brian Long (St Marys)
C	Tom Weetra (St Marys)	Noel Long (St Marys)	Peter Reid (Dwn)
HF	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)	Peter McGann (N'cliff)	Jamie Macri (Tahs)
F	Robbie Rusca (Sthn Dist)	Daryl Taylor (Wand)	Dusty Millar (Wand)
R&R	Jason Jones (Dwn)	Steve Connolly (Wand)	Willie Rioli (Tahs)
Inter	Graham Taylor (Sthn Dist)	Cyril Rioli (St Marys)	Tom Kavanagh (Tahs)
	Gabby Weetra (St Marys)		
Coach	John Taylor (St Marys)		

History of the NTFL

NT NEWS TEAM OF THE YEAR (cont'd)

1992/93

B	Peter Reid (Dwn)	Shane Ponter (St Marys)	David Totham (Wand)
HB	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)	Gary Argus (Tahs)	Scott Chisholm (St Marys)
C	Tom Weetra (St Marys)	Joel Howes (Tahs)	Noel Long (St Marys)(c)
HF	Sebastian Tipungwuti (Tahs)	Dennis Dunn (St Marys)	Chris Molloy (Nth Dwn)
F	Allen Corrie (St Marys)	Nathan Mourish (Nth Dwn)	Steve Turner (Sthn Dist)
R&R	Jason Jones (Dwn)	Aaron Perry (St Marys)	Cyril Rioli (St Marys)
Inter	Mark West (Wand)	Andrew McLeod (Dwn)	Shane Shewring (Sthn Dist)
	Bill Feeney (Sthn Dist)		
Coach	John Taylor (St Marys)		

1993/94

B	Michael Rotumah (Dwn)	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)(c)	Cyril Rioli (St Marys)
HB	Andrew McLeod (Dwn)	Michael Athanasiou (St Marys)	Shane Shewring (Sthn Dist)
C	Steven Stokes (Dwn)	Marty Christensen (St Marys)	Adam Kerinaiaua (Nth Dwn)
HF	Graham Taylor (Sthn Dist)	Leon Hayden (Nth Dwn)	Kerry Brain (N'cliff)
F	Steve Turner (Sthn Dist)	Brian Stanislaus (St Marys)	Robin Kidney (N'cliff)
R&R	Jason Jones (Dwn)	Mark West (Dwn)	Chris Wall (Dwn)
Inter	Andy Viola (Wand)	Andrew Kerr (St Marys)	Nathan Mourish (Nth Dwn)
	Jason Cockatoo (Sthn Dist)		
Coach	Bill Martin (Dwn)		

1994/95

B	Brad Cooper (Wand)	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)(c)	Allen Corrie (St Marys)
HB	Dion Myles (St Marys)	Michael Athanasiou (St Marys)	Jason Cockatoo (Sthn Dist)
C	Tom Weetra (St Marys)	Marty Christensen (St Marys)	Steven Stokes (Dwn)
HF	Brian Stanislaus (St Marys)	Peter McGann (N'cliff)	Jerry Frank (Dwn)
F	Stefan Carey (St Marys)	Dennis Dunn (St Marys)	John Lidgerwood (St Marys)
R&R	Daryl Taylor (Wand)	Mark West (Dwn)	Devon Perry (St Marys)
Inter	Bill Feeney (Sthn Dist)	Peter Reid (Dwn)	David Parfitt (Dwn)
	Anthony Hoban (Tahs)		
Coach	John Taylor (St Marys)		

TOYOTA TOP 20

An initiative taken by the NTFL in conjunction with Bridge Autos and Radio Station 8DN to generate interest in the skills and abilities of NTFL footballers, was the introduction in the 1989/ 90 season of the Toyota Top 20.

The seven NTFL clubs were asked to nominate 15 players who played in their league teams during the period 1974 to 1990. The players nominated must have played three seasons and/or 50 games. The Top 20 was selected by a panel of 20 independent judges.

All Football patrons were invited to enter a competition to select the best five NTFL players in correct order, with the first correct entry opened winning one return airfare to Adelaide.

P.C Atkinson Rising Star Award

1995/96	Daniel Parfitt (Drwn)
1996/97	Anthony Vallejo (St Marys)
1997/98	Matthew Whelan (Dwn)
1998/99	Jarred Ilett (St Marys)
1999/00	Xavier Clarke (St Marys)
2000/01	Edward Darcy (Palm Magpies)
2001/02	Raphael Clarke (St Marys)

History of the NTFL

The Top 20 players selected by the judges in order from Number One to Number 20 were:

No 1	John "Bubba" Tye	Nightcliff Utility
No 2	Ted Liddy	St Marys Wing/Half Back Flank/Back Pocket
No 3	William 'Ninny' Briston	Darwin Rover
No 4	Ron 'Barney' Quail	Darwin Centre/Wing
No 5	Michael Graham	St Marys Centre/Wing/Half Forward Flank
No 6	Joe Daby	Nightcliff Rover
No 7	Arch Wilkey	Waratahs Ruck/Forward
No 8	Cadji Dunn	St Marys Centre Half Forward
No 9	Peter Filler	Wanderers Centre Half Forward
No 10	Benny Vigona	St Marys Half Forward Flank/Forward Pocket
No 11	Michael Long	St Marys Centre/wing/Half Forward Flank
No 12	Michael Athanasiou	St Marys Centre Half Back
No 13	Warren McCoy	North Darwin Half Back Flank
No 14	Peter Ivanoff	Waratahs Utility
No 15	Mike Poulter	Waratahs Centre Half Forward/Ruck Rover
No 16	Donald 'Dookie' Bonson	Darwin Utility
No 17	Tony Dragun	Nightcliff Utility
No 18	Doug Kelly	Wanderers Ruck/Full Forward
No 19	Brian Long	St Marys Half Back Flank
No 20	Tom Thorne	Darwin Centre Half Forward

The judges' reasons for selecting John Tye as Number One in the Toyota Top 20 could best be summed up by the following comment 'There are not enough superlatives to describe John Tye's football ability. His inspirational play earned him the respect of all football followers. His fierce attack on the ball sent shudders through all his opponents. A brilliant mark and superb kick, to watch Bubba play would often give supporters goose bumps. Preferring to stay in Darwin to pursue his favourite past-time, fishing, Bubba could have been one of the greats in either the SANFL or VFL.'

TEAM OF TWO DECADES (1974 to 1994)

As part of the Back to Cyclone Tracy 20 Years On celebrations, the Team of Two Decades (1974 to 1994) was selected in December 1994 by a panel comprising former NTFL Coaches Tony Shaw and Ian Smith, and NTFL Board member Daryl Window (Chairman).

The criteria for selection was that the players must have played five seasons of Darwin football and their achievements were attained in the NTFL competition. The team line-up was:

B	Cyril Rioli (St Marys)	Damien Berto (St Marys)	Warren McCoy (Nth Dwn)
HB	Russell Jeffrey (Wand)	Michael Athanasiou (SM)	Brian Long (St Marys)
C	Noel Long (St Marys)	Michael Graham (St Marys)	Barney Quail (Dwn)
HF	Benny Vigona (St Marys)	Cadji Dunn (St Marys)	John Tye (N'cliff)
F	Ninny Briston (Dwn)	Dennis Dunn (St Marys)	Tom Thorne (Dwn)
R&R	Arch Wilkey (Tahs)	Tony Dragun (N'cliff)	Joe Daby (N'cliff)
Inter	Ted Liddy (St Marys)	Peter Filler (Wand)	John Patterson (Dwn)
	Jason Jones (Dwn)		
Coach	John Taylor (St Marys)		

History of the NTFL

15. SPONSORS/SPONSORSHIP AND MEDIA SUPPORT

In their efforts to maintain Australian Football as the major sport in Darwin, the NTFL and the NTFDF have received tremendous support from sponsors and the media.

Sponsorship did not really make a big impact with sporting and other organisations until the early 1970's, which was the start of the growth period for Darwin's business and industry companies. Since the early 1970's, sponsorship has become the major

Erection of Lights at Football Park Marrara - September 1994 source of revenue for the NTFL and its seven clubs.

Prior to sponsorship, the main sources for club finances were membership fees, social nights, meat trays, raffles, combined gambling and bucks nights, and bingo. Clubs now use these activities to supplement revenue provided by sponsors.

The NTFL has been fortunate in that a number of long-time sponsors have continued supporting Australian Football. In recognition of their support, the major sponsors of the NTFL, NTFDF and NTFL Clubs are listed as follows:

NTFL	NT Government Dept of Sport and Recreation, Carlton United Brewery, Colemans Printing, Ansett Australia, Coca Cola, Bridge Autos Toyota, Keith Kemp Sportsworld, Aussie Signs, Territory Insurance Office, Smith Snackfoods, Shamrock Chemicals, NT News, Diamond Beach Hotel Casino, Dowell Aluminium, Ampol Jingili, Project Plumbing, Territory Mutual
NTFDF	Westpac Banking Corporation, NT Government Dept Sport and Recreation, Zuellig Insurance Brokers, BP Australia, PUMA Sportswear, Ansett Australia, NTFL Umpires Association,
NTFL Umpires Association	Esanda Finance, Ansett Australia, Carlton United Brewery, TSM Homes.
Darwin Football Club	Visy Board
Nightcliff Football Club	Insulco
St Marys Football Club	Bridge Autos Toyota
Southern Districts Football Club	Pioneer Plasterboard
Wanderers Football Club	Schweppes
Waratahs Football Club	Norbuilt
North Darwin Football Club	Greyhound Pioneer Australia, Karama Tavern Plaza, Price Master Homes

History of the NTFL

In addition to the major sponsors, numerous business houses, companies and individuals are also providing sponsorship to NTFL clubs, and they are recognized by being listed in the weekly edition of the NTFL Football Insight and in each club's newsletter.

As mentioned earlier, sponsorship has progressed since the early 1970's to the stage where it is now the centre of intense

competition between sporting and other organisations in the Territory. In his message to patrons attending the

*First NTFL match played under lights at Football Park
Marrara-December 1994*

Australia Day match between the NTFL and Essendon, the past President of the NTFL, Tony Shaw, acknowledged the contribution of the major sponsors by saying that the match would not have been possible without the support of the major sponsors.

The NTFL recognizes the assistance given by the NT Government with the move from Gardens Oval to Football Park Marrara, and in particular the strong support of present and former Ministers Nick Dondas (the father of Mararra), Steve Hatton, Marshall Perron, Eric Poole, Roger Vale and the late Don Dale. The support from Sport and Recreation Secretaries Ray Norman, Dick Norris and Robin Flannery in making the move as smooth as possible and assisting with the establishment of Football Park as the Headquarters of Australian Football is also recognized.

MEDIA SUPPORT

An important contributor to Australian Football maintaining its status as the major sport in Darwin is the media support given in publicising the game, and the NTFL recognizes the efforts of the local newspapers, *NT News* and *Sunday Territorian*, radio stations 8DDD and 8 Top FM, the ABC and Channel 8.

Radio Stations 8DDD and 8 Top FM have well and truly supported the game, with the generous amount of air time given for Australian Football broadcasts, plus updated football news. Television stations ABC and Channel 8 have also contributed publicity-wise with their televised highlights (Channel 8) and replay of the main match of the day (ABC), plus updated football news from both channels.

The following list has been compiled in recognition of the Sportswriters, Radio and Television Presenters who have over the years contributed to keeping Australian Football in the forefront of NT sports.

NTNews - Dennis Booth, John Loizou, Lawrie McCawley, Mark McCaskill, Mick Hedger, Jamie Gallacher, Fred McCue, Jack Ellis, Luke Lawler, Dave Nason, Peter Dawe, Neale Grundy, Peter Tiffin, Ted Geracitano, Greg Thompson, Gordon Clarke, Grey Morris, Richard Earle and George Iredaconou.

History of the NTFL

Darwin Star Newspaper - Murray Leeder, John Loizou, Jack Ellis, Dave Nason.

Litchfield Times - Jack Ellis

Radio Station 8DN - Dennis Booth, Aldo Rossetto, Peter Turnbull, Tony Shaw, Dean Dempsey, Kevin Naughton, Col Krohn, Ted Geracitano, Mick Hedger.

Top FM Radio - Ashley Manicaros, Dave McKeon, Daryl Window, Paddy Leverence, Ted Geracitano.

Channel 8 Football Show - Dennis Booth, Ted Willis, Wayne Radbone, Paddy Leverence, Kelvin Clarke, Peter Tumbull, Wally Manger, Peter Atkinson, Tony Shaw, Keith Kroeger, Kevin Naughton and Craig Rowston.

ABC Radio/Television - Don Benstead, Jack Ellis, Paddy Leverence, Murray Leeder, Patrick Cusick, Dave Lennon, Dave McKeon, Kevin Naughton, Peter Atkinson, Charlie King, John Stokes, Peter McGann and Ian Butterworth.

Dennis Booth was one of the first and longest serving media identity to give Australian Football a lot of publicity through his combined newspaper, radio and television coverage. Dave McKeon, Kevin Naughton and Dave Lennon will be long remembered for their ABC Radio Grandstand broadcasts (Saturdays 12.00 noon to 1.00pm) from 1988 to 1990, especially their nonsensical chitchat with 'Timmy' and the football fanatic father who forever wanted to share with the panel the problems of his promiscuous daughter.

Recognition is also given to the NT News photographic team headed by Clive Hyde, and the management of the above newspapers, radio and television stations for their tremendous support in publicising Australian football.

ABC Television now has a full game cover of the Saturday match of the day, which is replayed on Sunday mornings at 9.00am. The commentary team is headed by Charlie King and John Stokes who has given outstanding service to the NTFL taking on the role of MC at all major events such as the Grand Final and Australia Day ceremonies and the Nichols Medal Presentation dinner. ABC Radio provides a direct broadcast of the match of the day ably presented by Charlie King, Ian Butterworth and Peter McGann.

Top FM Radio's commentary team of Murray Leeder, Grey Morris and "Stan" Coombe provides direct broadcasts of the Saturday match of the day, and the Sunday "away" match at either Nightcliff oval, Waratah oval, Freds Pass oval or the Archer Sporting Complex at Palmerston.

The NTFL and football followers of Darwin and the Top End of the Territory are fortunate to have such good local media support for Australian Football, and are indebted to the above people for their contributions in providing this important media coverage.

Sponsors signs at Football Park Marrara

History of the NTFL

1 6. INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

In the 'Beginnings' chapter of this book, it was mentioned that in the early days of football in Darwin, the fairer sex played an important part as supporters of clubs and that it was a common sight to see dozens and dozens of girls around the boundary barracking for their teams.

The fairer sex of the early days were most likely the wives and girlfriends of footballers. It is a fact that the wives, girlfriends and even mothers of footballers were also helping make and repair the players guernseys. This was certainly the case in the 1950's.

On the club level, women became involved with social committees and assisted with the tasks of organising and arranging club social functions. The preparation of food, drinks and entertainment was usually left to the women to organise.

Over the years, the women graduated from membership of social committees to club committees, and in a number of cases became secretary of the committee. One of the most respected and hard working club secretaries in the 1970's and 1980's was Gail Glover (Window), who was the mainstay of the Wanderers Football Club.

The ultimate step to Club and League President was attained in the early 1990's, with the appointments of Therese Francis as President of the Southern Districts Football Club, and Jenny Sinclair and Sue McLure as President of the Central Australian Football League and Gove Australian Football League.

Another important club role taken by women is that of trainer and physiotherapist. Their assistance in this area of the game has proved

invaluable to the clubs and players. One name to stand out in this area is Sharon Knight who is the trainer for the Nightcliff Football club, a position she has held for twelve years. Sharon has also served as Sports Trainer for the NTFL Representative teams since 1989.

*Helen Fejo-Frith issuing instructions to
her
Barunga senior mens team
(Photo courtesy NT News)*

On the playing side of Australian Football, there have always been fun matches between teams of women. This role of women footballers has now progressed to women coaches of mens teams. Helen Fejo-Frith gained national attention as being one of the first woman coaches of a senior mens team when she was appointed coach of the Burunga team in the Katherine District Football League.

Umpiring is another former male dominated part of Australian Football in which women have made inroads. Female goal umpires and boundary umpires have been a regular part of NTFL football since the early 1970's, with

Lorraine Docherty and Joy Cardona being the longest serving female goal umpires. Another female goal umpire, Jan Horsfall, had the honour of officiating at the 1976/77 Grand Final which the Queen attended as a special guest of the NTFL.

One female boundary umpire who has become a national representative in another sport is Nova Peris. Nova would have been one of the fittest female athletes in Darwin, and is now a member of the World Champion Australian Womens Hockey team.

Another breakthrough for women in NTFL umpiring was realised when Jodie Smith was appointed field umpire for the Under-age Grades in the 1993/94 NTFL season. Jodie has progressed to Reserves Grade and also officiated one of the preliminary matches to the Australia Day game between the NTFL and Essendon.

The NTFL Tribunal also felt the impact of womens involvement when Liz McLeod was appointed Tribunal Secretary in the mid 1980's. Liz has since been replaced by Naomi Senge, and both women had in their time introduced that 'little bit of decorum' to the conduct of Tribunal Hearings. Liz also introduced the tape recording of proceedings, and supplied the necessary microphones and recording machine.

As can be seen by the preceding sections, women have well and truly become involved in Australian Football in the Territory. The popular saying 'behind every good man is a good woman' may have to be changed to 'behind every good woman is a good man'.

Nova Peris and daughter Jessica

One of the fittest Boundary Umpires in the NTFL before becoming a key member of the Australian Womens Hockey Team (Photo courtesy NT News)

History of the NTFL

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With a book this size, there are bound to be quite a number of names of people who have been inadvertently missed and the authors apologise for this oversight.

The League Board of Directors which over-saw the development of NTFL operations at its new Football Park Head-quarters.

*Back Row - Frank Brimson, Bryan Moroney, Colin James.
Front Row- Darryl Window, Tony Shaw (President), Kevin Naughton.*
History of the NTFL

ABORIGINAL ALL STARS

COLLINGWOOD

FOOTBALL PARK, MARRARA, DARWIN

12TH FEBRUARY, 1994

Aboriginal All Stars 13-10 (88) - Collingwood 10-8 (68)

Back Row: Adam
Kerinaia (NT), Shane Cable,
Warren Campbell (NT), Jason
Cockatoo (NT),

Michael
Rotumah (NT), Shane
Tongerie, Dereck Kickett,
Dennis Dunn (NT),
Matthew Ah

Mat (NT).

Middle Row: Gilbert McAdam
(NT), Russell Jeffrey (NT),
Darryl White (NT), Jason Jones
(NT), Clinton Wolfe, Joe Smith,
Wayne Hogan, Chris Lewis.

Front Row: Willie Rioli
(NT), Fabian Frances (NT),
Michael McLean (NT- Captain),
Maurice Rioli

(NT- Coach), Troy Ugle, David
Skuta, Dale Kickett, Jamie
Lawson.

