



2019-20
**ANNUAL
REPORT**



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We have a proud football history in the Northern Territory with football being stitched in to the fabric of our community, and a part of our day to day lives.

In the Territory our game unites us in very unique ways. From Darwin to Dagaragu, Alice Springs to Alyangula, East Arnhem to Wadeye and down to the Western Desert, our game is a focus for the lives of men, women and children everywhere.

It is a great privilege to have a leadership role in AFLNT and I wish to acknowledge the support given to us by members of the football public who are the heart and soul of our game, particularly due to 2020 being a year that threw down many challenges.

This year our NTFL season finished the day before Australia was locked down by the COVID-19 pandemic, and though we were able to enjoy another fantastic Grand Final with Nightcliff winning their second premiership in two years, there were immediate impacts upon AFLNT and our staff.

The pandemic stripped income from the game nationally and has forced a fundamental rethink in terms of the structure and the activities of AFLNT. Our Board and Chief Executive Officer Stuart Totham have worked tirelessly to respond to these great changes, whilst continuing to run football at all levels.

In the face of these challenges the AFLNT team have been incredible. The Central Australian Football League season was able to be run after it was all-but cancelled. I want to thank the Presidents of the CAFL teams who

stepped up to the mark and showed great leadership in making the season happen – as well as David Ross who represents Alice Springs on the Board and gave us invaluable advice and guidance as we worked our way into the season.

We completed the 2020 Central Australian Football League season on 19 September 2020; the 2020 Barkly Australian Football League (BAFL) and Big Rivers Football League (BRFL) in Katherine on 26 September 2020, and the Gove Football League on 17 October 2020; during this time the AFLNT team kept football going in the remote and regional communities where we are based – Lajamanu, Wadeye, Yirrkala (North East Arnhem Land), Alyangula (Groote Eylandt), Galiwinku (Elcho Island), Maningrida and in the Central Australian region.

It was an inspiration to see our people stay at their posts in communities during the initial COVID-19 period, despite great stress and uncertainty.

In 2020/21 in Darwin we have seen some of the best football in years due to the hard preparatory work done by our Clubs and their Presidents in getting ready for the season and reacting to changed conditions. Player registrations in the NTFL are up 30% year on year and I expect the finals series this year to be one of the best ever.

And we had the great privilege of hosting the Dreamtime Game at TIO Stadium and taking on a lead role in the Sir Doug Nichols Round both in Darwin and Alice Springs. The Dreamtime Weekend in Darwin will long be remembered by the football community of Australia. We showed the rest of Australia, and reminded ourselves, just what it is we have here in the Territory and how special it is.

Stuart Totham, Peter Bailey and their team at AFLNT put the Dreamtime Game on in 3 weeks, when there is usually a 30 week period to prepare – it was a superb effort. And now our NTFL representative team is back.

Whilst these are great highlights, the AFLNT Board understands that we are operating in a new environment and that we need to focus on maintaining our programs and activities within budget, as well as playing our part within the AFL group.

We know that the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic are far from over and we are determined to continue to focus on our stewardship of the game in the NT and manage the challenges as and when they arise. We also want to turn tough times into better times, because that is what the Territory is all about.

Over the next period AFLNT will work with the football public on a few other key target areas:

- ▶ The strengthening of our Clubs and Competitions;
- ▶ The continued development of talent and junior participation in the Territory;
- ▶ The consolidation of our partnership with the Gold Coast SUNS, including where possible having additional SUNS games in the Territory;

As you may have seen we also support the construction of a new multi-purpose sports stadium in Darwin – the Territory Stadium – but we wish to see a dollar for dollar commitment to remote infrastructure so people in our regions, and the extraordinary talent of the young men and women who live in these regions, have the same facilities and the same opportunities as kids who live

in Darwin or Alice Springs. This would be a game changer for the Territory, and would not just give citizens in remote towns in the Territory the same basic civic rights as their urban counter-parts but improve lives and lift people's vision from the very difficult conditions often experienced. It would mean home-based opportunities with proper facilities that would enhance the unlocking of the enormous depth of talent that is apparent in these communities.

And a Territory Stadium in Darwin will remake Darwin and truly make us a Capital City.

In closing, I just want to thank the fans and the players and the volunteers and the club officials, and all those who day in day out love and contribute to footy in the Territory. I want to acknowledge our Life Members and thank them for their life-long service to the game. Thank you to all the AFLNT staff and Stuart Totham who has led them tirelessly this year. Football could not be in better hands.

S. Bowden

Sean Bowden
Chairman



CEO REPORT

Wow, what a year it has been. 2020 will long be remembered by all of us and remembered for lots of different reasons, but predominantly it was all about COVID-19.

The impact of COVID-19 will be felt on the game across the country for several years. AFLNT and footy in the NT was not immune to these challenges, and these challenges did indeed come, but we are proud of our efforts in facing them.

We were extremely fortunate to be able to finish off our NTFL season in March, prior to COVID shutdowns nationwide. We were then forced to cease most of our activity and stand down the majority of the AFLNT Team.

The leadership and support shown by AFL Head Office was outstanding and they provided the direction and support required to navigate the game through this unprecedented, extremely difficult time.

The Northern Territory was the first jurisdiction to see community footy get footy going again and were able to complete all of our regional competitions (albeit shortened).

Our remote projects also continued in the most unique way with many of our Remote

Development Officers effectively isolated in their communities, game development programs re-started and the 2020/21 TIO NTFL season started on time to a full schedule.

Community football remains the key component of a cohesive community in the NT and I would like to congratulate all of our winners across community football competitions in 2020. A special thank you to all the Clubs, Committees, Volunteers, Umpires, Sponsors and stakeholders in the CAFL, BRFL, BAFL, GAFL and all the Community Footy team for an effort over and above and a job well done – without all of you working together to get footy back it would not have been possible.

The TIO Northern Territory Football League remains our premier footy competition and one that we are extremely proud of. With 15 Clubs, 60 teams competing across 22 weeks, 300 Umpires, 100,000 people through the turnstiles, thousands of volunteers plus hundreds of sponsors all make the unique competition tick over from year to year. Congratulations to all the winners, in particular Nightcliff for going back-to-back in the Men's Premier League and Southern Districts for taking our their first Women's Premier League trophy.

A particular highlight during 2020 was the AFL Footy played at TIO Stadium. AFL allocated the NT 3 games in 8 days and what an opportunity it was to have Gold Coast take on Carlton in their first game in the NT, Melbourne v St Kilda in Alice Springs and to see the Richmond v Essendon Dreamtime game in Darwin was something that many of us will never forget.

Thankyou to the AFL for having faith in us to deliver these games, the NT Government for its support, AFLNT Chair Sean Bowden for pushing our case to the AFL and Broadcaster alike to schedule games in the NT. Finally, a special thankyou to the team at AFLNT who were truly amazing and went well above and beyond to ensure these games did the NT proud – and they did.

The opportunity to showcase NT talent on the national stage very limited in 2020. We did however see All Star matches at TIO Stadium and a group of players also spent some time with Gold Coast during the year. On the draft front, Joel Jeffrey and Janet Baird will join Mally Rosas at the Gold Coast SUNS and Stephanie Williams was selected by the Geelong Cats. And who says footy's not romantic with historic selection of Maurice Rioli Jnr to play at his late, great father's club Richmond.

Thank you to Chairman Sean Bowden for your energy, support & direction during the year, the AFLNT Board, AFLNT Staff and all our important stakeholders that are so important to making our game happen.

A special mention to our long-time partner TIO for their continued support of our Stadium and the NTFL competition, Cazaly's Palmerston Club who continue to provide support in challenging times for AFLNT and NTFL Clubs and importantly, the Northern Territory Government, whose support through the COVID shutdown and after was significant and is so greatly appreciated.

We said goodbye to several staff members over 2020 and I would like to acknowledge

the contribution to footy in the NT of all who departed in 2020 with special mention to Rychelle Vines, Emily Wastle-Hopkins, Amy Blake & Wally Gallio. All the best with your next challenge and thankyou for your contribution to NT Footy.

In summary - 2020 - we survived. We got footy going again throughout the Territory, we had landmark AFL games in the NT, we lost good people to the industry, our programs and competitions continued. Change was the new normal - every sinew in our body and mind was stretched but we are still here.

It's now time to look forward to 2021.

Our focus for the next 12 months will be on supporting the growth and sustainability in community footy, re-setting our talent programs, facility development, growing participation of our game across the NT, growing relationships with all stakeholders, settling into the new AFL structure / ways of working and ensuring that our new team settles in enjoys the work we do.

In closing, I refer back to a quote made by Richard Fejo at our staff conference in February 2020 - AFLNT are "The Agents of Opportunity" -we will continue to play this role and ensure our great game continues thrive in all corners of the NT.

See you at the footy!

S. Totham

Stu Totham
CEO



AFLNT DIRECTORS



MR SEAN BOWDEN – CHAIRMAN

- ▶ Bachelor of Laws (with Honours)
- ▶ Partner, Bowden McCormack Lawyers & Advisers
- ▶ Former player Richmond Football Club
- ▶ (FC), Port Melbourne FC, Rovers FC (Alice Springs)
- ▶ VFA Representative player 1994, 1995



MR ROSS COBURN

- ▶ Bachelor of Business-Accounting (FCPA)
- ▶ Diploma Australian Institute of Company Directors (FAICD)
- ▶ Australian Certified Practising Accountants (CPA)
- ▶ Executive Management – 17 years
- ▶ 2011 AIM Not for Profit Manager of the Year NT & South Australia (SA)
- ▶ Company Director/Secretary – 16 years
- ▶ Board Memberships – various 25 years
- ▶ Auskick Coach – 7 years
- ▶ AFLNT Board Member since 2002, Chairman since 2012



MR ANDREW DILLON

- ▶ Director AFL Sports Ready
- ▶ Director Champion Data Holding Pty Ltd
- ▶ Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws
- ▶ Former in-house Counsel of Village Roadshow Limited
- ▶ AFL General Counsel, Legal & Business Affairs
- ▶ Chairman AFL's List Establishment Sub-Committee for Gold Coast and Greater Western Sydney entry rules



MRS DIANNE BORELLA

- ▶ Master of Public Health
- ▶ Diploma of Social Science and Management
- ▶ Company Director – Dianne Borella Consultancy Pty Ltd.
- ▶ Accredited Trainer – Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid
- ▶ Cert IV Mentoring Diverse Groups
- ▶ Life Member Nightcliff Football Club
- ▶ Past President Rotary Club of Darwin Sunrise
- ▶ Recipient of Paul Harris Fellow Award
- ▶ Recipient of Sapphire Paul Harris Fellow Award
- ▶ NT Thunder Football Club Volunteer of the Year Award
- ▶ Long Term Employee – Australian Public Service



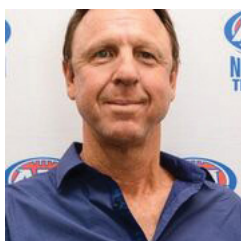
MS COLLEEN GWYNNE

- ▶ Northern Territory Children's Commissioner
- ▶ Australian Institute of Company Directors
- ▶ Graduate Certificate in Applied Management
- ▶ Graduate Diploma in Criminal Justice Education
- ▶ Former Coach and player in the NTFL
- ▶ Assistant Coach to the inaugural Adelaide Crows Women's Team



MR EDWARD (TED) LIDDY

- ▶ Highly respected Indigenous player of 272 NTFL games (St Mary's Football Club)
- ▶ NTFL Premiership player 13 times
- ▶ Played with Morningside FC (QLD)
- ▶ West Adelaide FC (SA)
- ▶ Coach of St Mary's FC – two seasons
- ▶ Life Member St Mary's FC and NTFL
- ▶ Won Club Best and Fairest award in QAFL (Morningside) & NTFL (St Mary's)
- ▶ Approximately 25 years' service as an Aviation Fire Fighter with Air Services Australia
- ▶ AFLNT Inaugural Hall of Fame Inductee



MR LINCOLN JENKIN

- ▶ Regional Manager of Carlton & United Breweries NT
- ▶ NT resident for 40 years, 10 of those in Alice Springs
- ▶ Inaugural member and former Chairman, Northern Territory FC
- ▶ Has a strong NT football background having played in Central Australia (Federal FC and Wests FC) and Darwin (Wanderers FC and Banks FC) competitions
- ▶ Served on a variety of FC committees and coached at several levels, including premiership teams
- ▶ AFLNT Masters involvement



MRS KATHLEEN COLE

- ▶ Bachelor of Business – Major Accounting
- ▶ Graduate Diploma of Public Health – Indigenous Health
- ▶ Masters of Community Management
- ▶ Fellow of Australian Certified Practising Accountants
- ▶ Graduate of Australian Institute of Company Directors
- ▶ Chairperson Red Cross Northern Territory Advisory Board
- ▶ Deputy Chair Northern Territory Primary Health Network
- ▶ Independent Director Mala'la Health Services Aboriginal Corporation
- ▶ Independent Director of PKKP Native Title DMC
- ▶ Member of Waratahs Football Club 15 years



MR THOMAS WILCOX

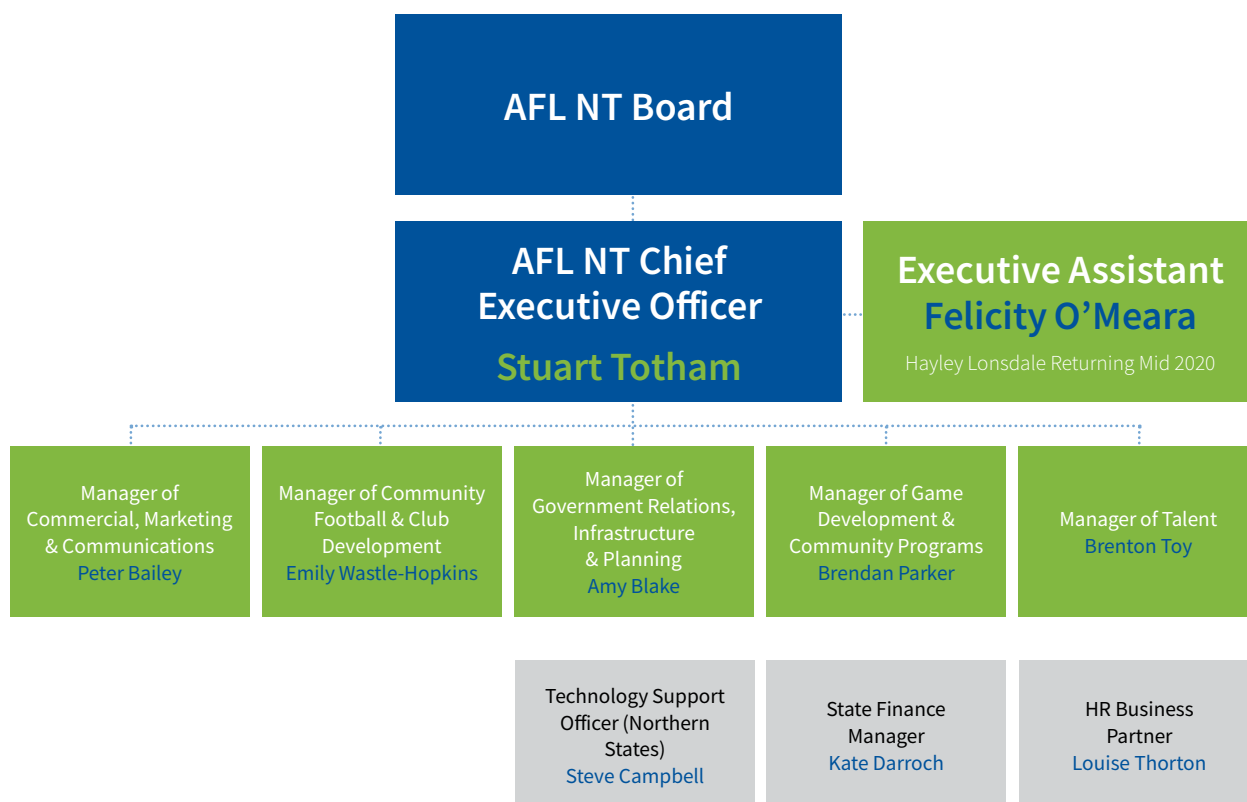
- ▶ Over 17 years experience in legal and corporate governance roles in Australia and overseas, predominantly in the resources sector
- ▶ Most recently General Counsel & Company Secretary of ASX-listed Kidman Resources Limited
- ▶ Master of Laws (LLM); Bachelor of Laws (LLB); Bachelor of Commerce (BCom)
- ▶ Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD)
- ▶ Former captain, premiership player and Executive Committee member with the University Blues Football Club in the Premier Division of the Victorian Amateur Football Association



MR DAVID ROSS

- ▶ Director Central Land Council – 25 years
- ▶ Chairman Indigenous Land Corporation – 4 years
- ▶ Commissioner, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Commission – 4 years
- ▶ Committee Member Alice Springs Regional Council, (ATSIC) – 3 years
- ▶ Former Board Member, Imparja Television
- ▶ Former Member, Aboriginal Advisory Group, South Australian Museum
- ▶ Current Member, CAAC
- ▶ Current Board Member, Cenrcorp Pty Ltd
- ▶ Current Board Member, Centrefarm Pty Ltd
- ▶ Current Chairman, Anangu Communities Foundation

AFL NORTHERN TERRITORY ORGANISATIONAL CHARTS



COMMERCIAL, MARKETING & CLUB DEVELOPMENT



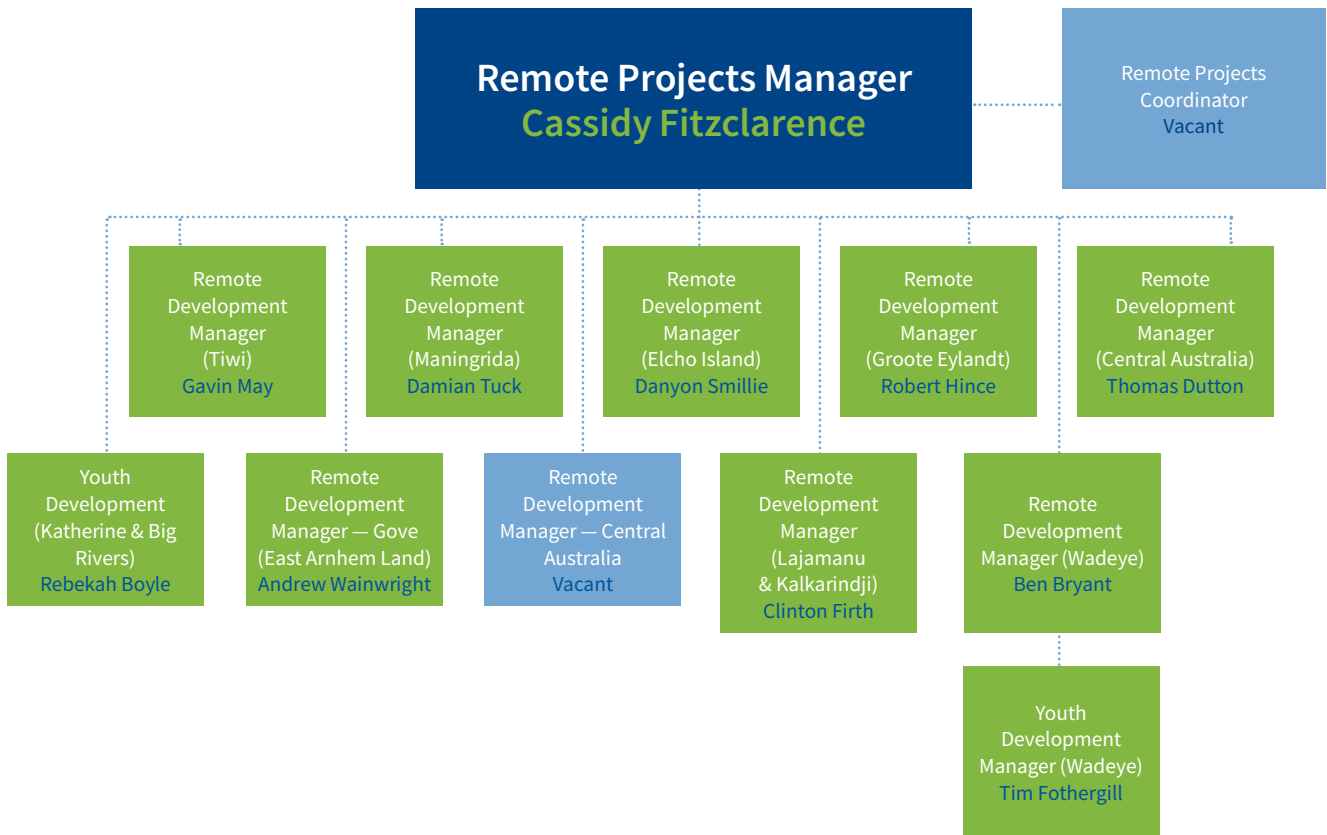
COMMUNITY FOOTBALL & CLUB DEVELOPMENT



GAME DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



REMOTE PROJECTS



TALENT





UPDATED FEBRUARY 2020



AFL Purpose: Progress the game, so everyone can share in its heritage and possibilities

AFLNT Vision: Through access to football, unite and inspire the Northern Territory community

Strategic Pillar	SUSTAINABILITY	FOOTBALL TALENT	GROWTH	ENGAGEMENT	COMMUNITY IMPACT	NT AFL TEAM
Aspiration	<i>A vibrant and sustained network of clubs, leagues and facilities across the territory</i>	<i>More Territorians on AFL/AFLW lists</i>	<i>Opportunities and access to football for all Territorians</i>	<i>Highly engaged internal & external stakeholders</i>	<i>A meaningful impact on the communities in which we work</i>	<i>To champion and best position the NT for an AFL license, should one become available</i>
Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish multi-year, multi-source funding for all programs Build capacity and structures in all regions, leagues and clubs to be self-sustainable and well-governed Ensure a strong network of well-run, fit for purpose facilities across the NT that support growth Ensure a safe, enjoyable environment at football events/programs within the NT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the exposure of & development opportunities for the Northern Territory's talent Ensure the talent pathway is accessible and equitable for all players across the territory to reach their full potential Ensure AFLNT programs attracts the best people for roles who bring diverse perspectives to coaching and supporting our talent Build a high-performance environment to prepare athletes for the transition to AFL Clubs and increase retention on AFL lists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align the participation pathway to grow the game Deliver high quality programs to ensure retention and sustainable growth Drive diversity through inclusion – all ages, all abilities, all cultures represented in all regions Maximise commercial return on controlled stadia, facilities & programs through innovation Maximise reach across all media platforms Ensure a network of facilities that supports growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure AFLNT attracts and retains the best people for roles who bring diverse perspectives and experiences Embed development and wellbeing programs to ensure employees feel valued and rewarded Establish strong internal & external communications to ensure all stakeholders are well informed Develop and implement a recruitment and retention strategy for coaches, umpires, volunteers & administrators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MLLC education programs to continue to evolve and be recognised as an industry leader Establish a MLLC type high performance & education facility in Alice Springs to service Central Australia Focus on quality program delivery to ensure football in remote communities becomes self-sustainable and seek out opportunities for growth / expansion Identify and develop new opportunities and programs for community impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership group to champion, lobby for and progress the Territory's claim for an AFL team Further development of AFL license concept in the NT Development of interest in AFL license in the NT Put Territory Football on the National Agenda
Enablers	Clubs	Players	Umpires	Volunteers	Government	Partners
	Commercial & Marketing	Communication & Digital	Football Operations	Game Development	MLLC, Remote & Facilities	Talent & Pathways
Values						

COMMUNITY FOOTBALL



NTFL

Nightcliff Football Club went back-to-back in 2019/20 with a 13-point victory over St Mary's Football Club in an exciting TIO NTFL Men's Premier League Grand Final at TIO Stadium.

With TIO NTFL Grand Finals taking place on 14 March 2020, we were fortunate to crown the 2019/20 Premiers before the COVID-19 lockdown began. Trent Melville, who kicked a bag of five goals and helped the Tigers seal their consecutive premiership was awarded the 2019/20 Chaney Medal.

The TIO NTFL Women's Premier League saw a rematch of the 2018/19 Grand Final, although this time the tables were reversed with Southern Districts taking out their first WPL title with a 6.3 (39) to 3.3 (21) win over Waratah. 16-year-old Grace Mulvahil, who made her WPL debut in Round 5 was named the Williams Medallist. Mulvahil helped set up Ebony Miller for the first goal of the game before bagging two majors on her own right foot, both on the run.

The Nichols Medal was awarded to joint winners for the first time in 12 years with the honours shared by Nightcliff's Brodie Filo and Wanderers' Beau O'Connell. Filo claimed his second Nichols Medal after another dominant season with the Tigers, while O'Connell at just 18 years of age took out his first. O'Connell is the youngest Nichols Medalist since 1988/89 and the first winner from Wanderers Football Club since 2010/11. Waratah co-captain Lisa Roberts claimed her second Gwynne Medal on the night, smashing the record for the most votes recorded in an NTFL women's best & fairest with 37 votes. She finished with nine best-on-ground performances, as adjudicated by the umpires, and only failed to poll votes in three out of 17 matches.

The 2019/20 TIO NTFL season also saw the introduction of the new Women's Division 2 competition. Played on Wednesday evenings, the competition featured six teams including University Lady Rats who are the University Rats first female team. the Statewide Super Club of the Year in its second year was awarded to Nightcliff Football Club in the Big Club division and PINT Football Club in the Small Club Division who both had highly successful 2019/20 campaigns both on and off the field.

2019/20 TIO NTFL Premiers

Men's Premier League	Nightcliff
Women's Premier League	Southern Districts
Men's Division 1	PINT
Men's Division 2	Waratah
Women's Division 2	Southern Districts
Under 18 Boys	St Mary's
Under 18 Girls	Darwin Buffettes
Under 16 Hickman	Wanderers
Under 15 Girls	Palmerston Magpies
Under 14 Gunderson	Waratah
Under 14 Lewfatt	Southern Districts
Under 12 Atkinson	Nightcliff
Under 12 Deslandes	Darwin Buffaloes
Under 12 Division 3	Wanderers





CAFL

Central Australian Football League (CAFL) managed to kickstart the 2020 season after COVID-19 lockdown on Friday 19 June with the women's competition.

Across all divisions the 2020 season saw all clubs compete in a reduced 10 round season, enabling clubs to play each other twice in front of maximum crowd limits of 500 at any given time, excluding finals.

In the Community Competition we amalgamated the Community Cup and Country League Competitions into one. This enabled almost every community to play one another once prior to finals. When it came to finals, the top six teams broke off into a Division 1 finals series whilst the remaining six played off for a Division 2 premiership. This kept communities engaged and enabled the opportunity for each team to play finals footy.

In August, Melbourne defeated St Kilda under lights in a blockbuster AFL clash at Alice Springs' TIO Traeger Park in-front of a reduced capacity of 1,984 spectators. This gave the

CAFL Community competition an opportunity to take games out to community with three games of footy played in Yuendumu.

The 2020 Grand Finals were across split weekends with the Town Competition up first. Games reverted to daytime Grand Finals from the 2019 season where the TIO CAFL Seniors played under lights.

With the eased threat of COVID-19, spectator numbers were increased for the Grand Finals. It was great to see communities able to barrack for their team at the grounds. With crowd numbers restricted to 2,164, games were spread across the day to enable supporters to exit and allow the next games spectators through safely.

Four hotly contested Grand Finals saw the margin no greater than 24 points in any game.

On the first day of Grand Finals, Rovers dominated and claimed victory in the TDC Refrigeration Reserves, Yeperenye Shopping Centre Women's Seniors and the TIO Senior Men's Grand Finals, whilst Federal Football Club held off a strong South's side in the revised AJ Services U17 competition.



The CAFL MacDonnell Regional Council U18 Grand Final saw Papunya defeat Yuendumu. Yuendumu had a strong season and had previously beaten Papunya in the Qualifying Final two weeks prior, however it was Papunya who were too strong on the day.

Mt Allan had a strong season as part of the CAFL Central Desert Senior Division 2 Competition and managed to compete in a second Grand Final in a row, however with a standout performance by Yuendumu's Liam Jurrah in the forward line, the Magpies were too strong on the day.

In the CAFL Central Desert Division 1 Grand Final, Ltyentye Apurte defeated Western Arrente. Whilst the result shows a 33-point victory to Ltyentye Apurte, the last quarter saw Western Arrente manage to peg back the margin to 11 before a couple of quick goals were secured from Ltyentye Apurte to claim the premiership.

2020

CAFL award winners included Tyrell Martin who was awarded the Rising Star as well as the Wenton Rubuntja U18 Community Best and Fairest award. Community Competition player Toshie Kunoth who kicked 50 goals in 8 games was awarded the Leading Goal Kicker award.

The 2020 TIO Minahan Medal was awarded to Abe Ankers of Federal Football Club. This was his second Minahan off the back of winning the award in 2016.

For the first time, dual winners were awarded the Margaret Liddle award with Kirstin Remfrey of Roover's and Janaya Kopp of Pioneer E-Girls taking out top honours.

CAFL would like to thank all volunteers, sponsors and Sports Med crew for the support across the 2020 season and look forward to a big 2021.



BRFL

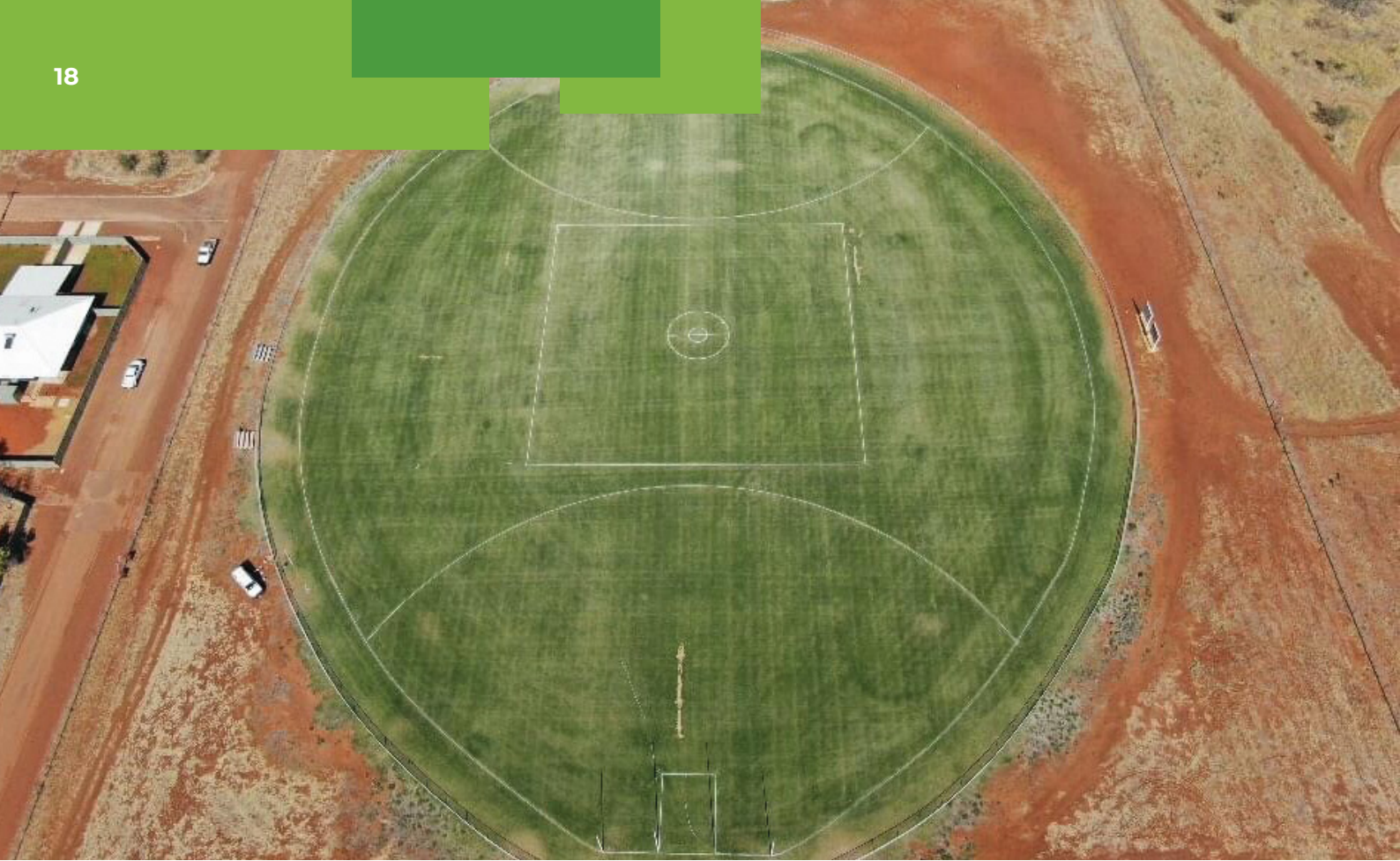
The Big Rivers Football League was primed in early 2020 with fixtures ready to be sent to nine men's and five women's clubs and BANG, we had the COVID-19 shutdown which saw the competition suspended before the first siren was even sounded.

Round 1 finally got away on 26 June with seven men's teams and five women's teams in a shortened 10 round season. It was great to welcome the Ngukurr Bulldogs back into the competition and to see the entry of both the Tindal Magpies and Arnhem Crows women's teams. A special mention goes to Arnhem Crows for being the first women's team from a remote location to play in a structured community football league in the Northern Territory. The 2019/2020 Grand Finals were played in front of a crowd of 1,200 people. Arnhem Crows defeated Katherine South Crocs in the women's clash and Katherine South Crocs defeated Katherine Camels in the men's.

There was an increase in player numbers with total participants in the 2020 senior season rising by nearly 5% year on year. This was due to an uplift of 56% in the women's sides. Despite the disruption to the start of the season we were successful in playing more games across the region with matches fixtured throughout the season at Barunga, Kalano, Lajamanu, Tindal, Jilkmिंगgan and the Katherine Showgrounds. The diversity of locations increased community engagement with a surge in spectator numbers through the gates every week.

2020 saw a return of youth football in the region, assisted by the implementation of a Remote Youth Development Manager. This six-month pilot began in early August and has had a whopping engagement of 860 participants ranging from Auskick through to our pilot junior matches. From across the region, we had six U12 teams, three women's U16 teams and two men's U16 teams. This seven-week trial competition allowed us to build enthusiasm within the community for the commencement of a Junior Football Program in 2021.





BAFL

2020 was a major year for the Barkly Australian Football League (BAFL). Not only did BAFL celebrate a 30-year milestone, the club also completed the 2019/2020 season after a COVID-19 lockdown.

The U13 Friday afternoon competition saw Elliott School students travel weekly round trips of 500km to join the Janapurlaki Eagles who were crowned premiers after defeating YDU in the Grand Final.

Unfortunately, due to low player registrations the U16 competition could not commence in the 2019/2020 season, although the Spitfires defeated YDU in late November after playing off for the No More Cup in a 6-game series under lights at Purkiss Reserve. With only four teams competing for the A-grade title, the highlight of the year was the first ever league matches played on the new Elliott Oval. For the first time, Spitfires and YDU had to travel for a minor round match. Just as importantly, it would be the first time Elliott Hawks did not

have to make the 500km round trip to play league matches.

The latest ever title decider in the 30-year history of the BAFL, played on 10 October, saw Spitfires and Elliott Hawks battle it out. 20-year-old Captain Matthew Green led the Spitfires to turn a 16 point three-quarter time deficit into a 6-point win to claim their 15th premiership. To add to the momentous win, Matthew who is a former NT Thunder player was awarded Best on Ground and also received the Patrons Medal for Best and Fairest in the league. Ishmale Nandy added his name to the history books as A-grade leading goalkicker for the season.

Prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, BAFL welcomed Collingwood Football Club who made their annual pilgrimage for the annual AFL Community Camp.

Another highlight of the year was the BAFL representation in the NT Thunder Academy match at TIO Stadium. Liam Holt-Fitz captained a team containing Kostya Green from Spitfires, along with Leroy Jones and Anthony Raymond from Elliott Hawks.

UMPIRES

At the beginning of 2019 we saw the creation of a new five-year Northern Territory Future Directions of Umpiring Strategy.

The purpose of this strategy is to create a strong, supportive environment that promotes development and is conducive to retaining umpires.

Four key pillars underpin this 2019-2023 strategy are;

1. Developing a high-quality pool of coaches and support staff
2. Increasing community awareness
3. Providing a clear pathway
4. Strengthening resources, management structure, and policies.

Umpires are one of the most valuable parts of our game, and we believe the research and feedback underpinning this strategy, will assist NT umpires and ultimately improve the experience and growth of Australian Rules Football across the NT.

Moving onto the 2019/20 Season we saw some challenges with both BRFL & CAFL affected by Covid-19, but the umpiring department has proven resilient, and seen good increases in a number of key areas.

The number of Female umpires across the NT climbed from 48 to 72, an increase of 50%. Within the NTFL, umpires grew from 274 last season to 317 in 2019/20, and most pleasingly it was Junior umpires that jumped significantly.

The BRFL also saw the presentation of its inaugural Golden Whistle award which was received by Sam Cunningham. Other award winners across the Territory were;

Mark Noonan - ABC Umpire of the Year

Melissa Thiele - NTFL Golden Whistle

Bailey Degraaff - CAFL Golden Whistle

The last part of 2020 also saw the arrival of Darren Pfeiffer take on the newly created role of Umpiring & Coaching Manager for AFLNT, while AFL umpire John Howarth escaped Melbourne to again find his way up to the Top End between Round 1 – 7.

John worked tirelessly to provide support to all of our umpires and umpire coaches during this time, and we look forward to continuing to build this relationship with AFL Umpires, into the future.

In a fitting end to the season, umpires legend Mark Noonan received AFLNT Life Membership.

Below: Mark "Noons" Noonan receiving his Life Membership while MC Richard Champion looks on



GAME DEVELOPMENT



In our second season of NTFL U10 Juniors, we grew from 16 to 18 teams with the addition of one team in the Darwin region and another in the Palmerston and Rural competition, combining to reach 353 participants.

Again, we had all 10 clubs participating in the 2020/21 season and it was great to see clubs building their junior participation from the ground up and understanding the importance of grassroots football in sustaining their clubs.

Due to restrictions with staff we had to cap our primary school gala days, which have been extremely popular in the past. 20 teams were ensembled for both our all-girls Pink Power gala day, with 228 participants and 240 participants at our lower primary Cracka Cup gala day. While participation numbers

were down on last year, we have no doubt participation will jump back up in 2021 with increased capacity at AFLNT and less restrictions on school excursions.

COVID-19 impacted the Central Australian team with remote staff unable to travel into remote Indigenous communities. Tommy Dutton, Central Australia's Football Development Manager created the Youth Detention Centre (YDC) Program. This program enabled staff to deliver a Football Development Project whilst staying locally in Alice Springs.

Across the second half of 2020, the Game Development team have taken over the delivery of the YDC Program by running daily football clinics for the detainees. These sessions involve a daily mindfulness component, followed by a football focused activity and an ironman challenge. Positive reinforcements are a key element to this program and a "Player of the Week" prize is

awarded each week. This structure aims to give participants health and wellbeing tools to take with them after their time within the YDC concludes.

AFLNT have found the YDC Program an enormously huge success in an unprecedented year. Participants are encouraged to focus on individual progression while in the YDC and transition into playing within the CAFL Community competitions afterwards. We are excited to extend this program to Darwin's Don Dale Youth Detention Centre in 2021.

AFL 9's was another success story in 2020 with a record 11 teams across two divisions in Darwin. We also saw a huge increase of participation across Alice Springs. Our competition saw a 50% increase from our

2019 figures. It was great to see the Yirara College team consisting of school aged kids use the Summer competition to improve on their football skills. The Central Australia Demons who engaged YDC players outside of their release. The premiers of the competition went to the highly skilled Pugs Thugs – a South FC based team who took out the competition by 20 points over Yirara College.

We look forward to moving into the new year, which will bring a focus on growing the number of Auskick centres to accommodate the consistent increase of participants. There will also be a focus on building participation across the Palmerston and Rural regions in all school-based competitions and gala days.



AFLNT REMOTE PROJECTS



2020 started strongly for Remote Projects with a full team of Remote Development Managers (RDMs) delivering high quality programs throughout each of their respective remote communities and regions.

Once COVID-19 reached Australia, the impacts were immediately felt throughout the formation of 'biosecurity zones' restricting travel in and out of all remote regions. Despite these travel restrictions and impacts on social gatherings, the Remote Development Managers were given the go ahead to continue to work throughout the 'shut down' period of March-May due to the different funding structures of the remote projects and the need for engaging activities in remote Indigenous communities. However, the usual AFLNT programs had to be adjusted significantly resulting in many of the remote community AFL competitions postponed until later in 2020. The adapted programs saw an exciting development in online AFL classes which our remote staff either delivered live through video link ups or pre-recorded sessions sent to schools to deliver in their own time. The online classes have opened the door for AFLNT to reach even further remote communities and diversify the type of content delivered to schools.

Another positive outcome during COVID has been the repurposing of Northern Territory Government community football funding into new projects. The Youth Development Manager project in Katherine and Big Rivers was established in August through this repurposed funding with the focus of embedding junior AFL programs and competitions into this region. Former Game Development Manager Rebekah Boyle moved from Alice Springs to take on this role in Katherine and has achieved some wonderful outcomes in a very short period. Rebekah has been able to establish an Auskick Centre in Katherine, U12 and U16 male and female youth AFL competitions and deliver AFL programs in Barunga, Beswick, Bulman, Ngukurr, Jilkminggan, Mataranka, Lajamanu and Kalkarindji, engaging over 800 youth in AFL programs. AFLNT is working

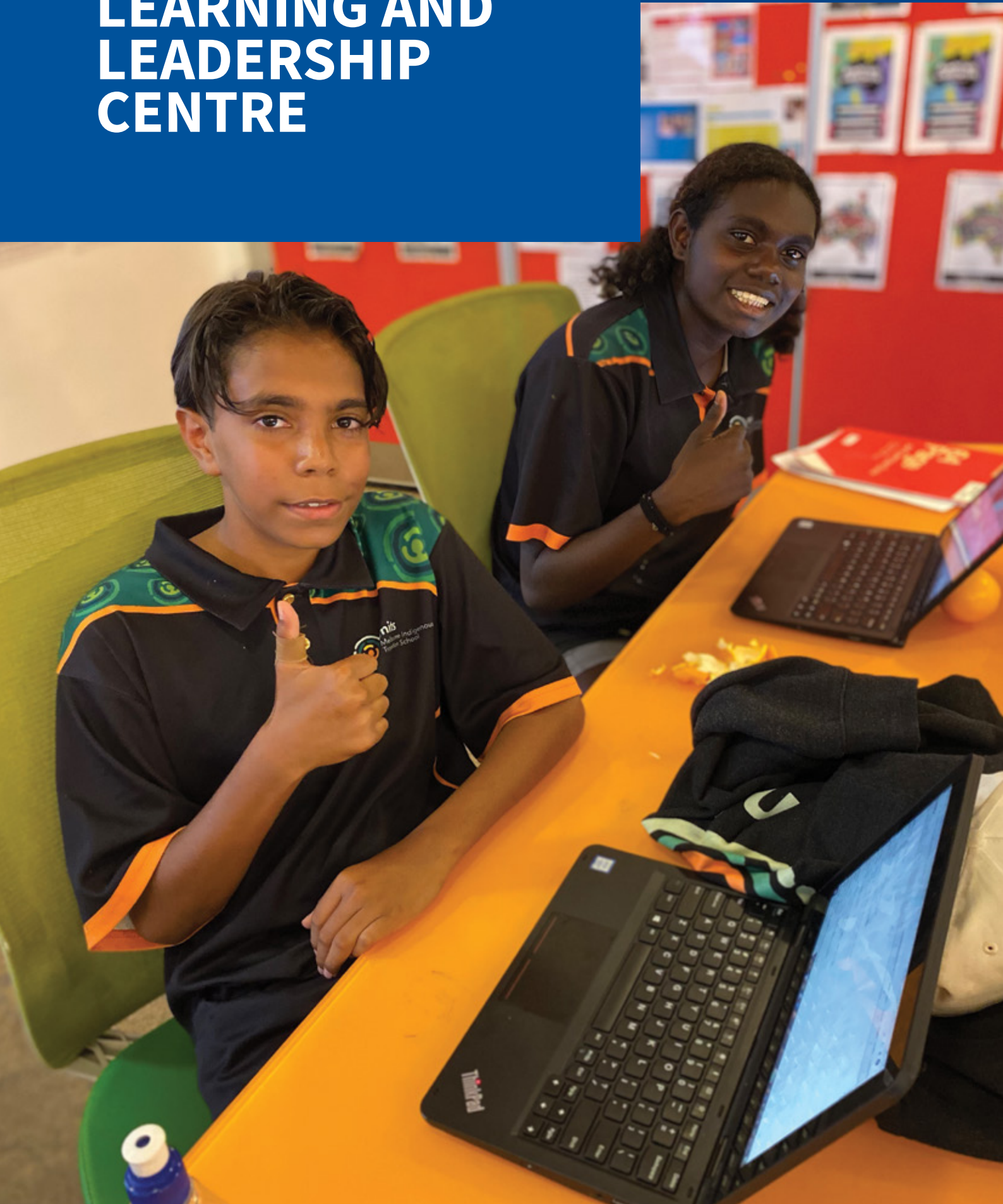
to establish ongoing funding to make this project a long-term feature of the Remote Projects team.

Funding received also saw new remote projects established in the communities of Daly River (Nauiyu) and Gunbalanya. It is very exciting to establish new projects and deliver strong community outcomes in different locations, all three of these new projects will make 2021 an exciting chapter for the Remote Projects team. There was also growth in the existing remote AFL competitions throughout 2020 with the Gove AFL League (GAFL) expand from four teams to eight in 2020 with Gapuwiyak, Groote Eylandt Stingrays, the Nhulunbuy Saints and the Datjala work camp joining the competition.

The GAFL is now taking shape as the premier AFL competition in East Arnhem Land with players traveling from all over the region to participate in the competition. The Big Rivers Football League also saw the inclusion of two new teams from remote communities with the Ngukurr Bulldogs and the first ever remote women's team from the Arnhem Crows. Both teams competed strongly throughout the season with the Arnhem Crows women's team taking out the premiership and the Ngukurr Bulldogs going down in the Preliminary final.

Despite the challenges and unpredictable nature of 2020, the Remote Projects team showed incredible resilience and dedication to continue to deliver such quality programs and competitions in remote regions. 2021 is shaping up to an exciting year for remote footy in the Territory with a strong focus on developing remote AFL talent and the continual expansion and improvement of remote and regional AFL competitions. The continual expansion into new communities and training and empowering local people to manage their own AFL programs and competitions will also be high priorities for 2021.

MICHAEL LONG LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP CENTRE



Since opening in 2015, the Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre (MLLLC) has become a hub for remote Indigenous Education in the Northern Territory.

While football is often the drawcard of our programs, we endeavour to provide students with real life outcomes in areas such as general health and wellbeing, community safety, school engagement, leadership and career pathways.

2020 was slated as another ground-breaking year for the centre, however the COVID-19 pandemic made this extremely challenging. 'Biosecurity zones' and the limitation on travel meant it wasn't possible for remote students to access the centre in the 'normal' manner.

COVID-19 also meant that remote students who usually attend boarding school in Victoria could not return to normal schooling as the state became the epicentre of the pandemic in Australia. In lieu of this the Melbourne Indigenous Transition School (usually based in Richmond) took up temporary residence in the MLLLC.

This allowed 52 remote Indigenous students to continue their high school learning while having access to the centre's facilities for the duration of terms 3 and 4.

During this time, the MLLLC explored different ways to connect with remote Territory communities including the piloting of video conferencing lessons and development of value aligned curriculum resources.

We are looking forward to resuming normal operating in 2021 with the imminent appointment of an Education Coordinator and the hope of seeing 220 students pass through the centre. We will continue to implement our Mark Your Mark, Employment Pathways and TSU Pre-boarding programs with a renewed focus of auditing the impact and outcomes of these programs.

As the centre continues to grow we aim to expand our program offerings and establish a clear educational pathway for students all across the Territory.

The ongoing support of our key supporters – led by our MLLLC partner, MACC – during this challenging time has been greatly appreciated.



TALENT

Cazalys Palmerston GM Matt Hewer with the newly-named All Star captains



AFLNT's Talent Programs were significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was unfortunate we did not get to see our talented U16 or U18 teams perform in the National Championships or NAB league.

Instead of the usual AFL and AFLW national programs, 2020 saw each state and territory host its own NAB AFL and AFLW All-Star match.

Here in the Territory, both men's and women's All-Star matches were held at TIO Stadium on Friday 25 September and were broadcast across the AFLNT channels, meaning AFL clubs could tune in.

Representatives from all over the Territory were invited to play. Women's Team Ponter was named after Adelaide Crows' AFLW premiership player and NT star, Danielle Ponter, and led on-field by Janet Baird. Gold Coast SUNS AFLW player and former NTFL player Jasmyn Hewett led her team, named

after her. These teams contained an even mix of Cazalys NT Thunder Academy members as well as mature-aged players who provided great experience.

The men's Team Rioli was led by Brandon Rusca and Team McLean led by Liam Holt-Fitz.

The Rioli team comprised of U19 NT Thunder Academy players and the McLean team included younger Academy players balanced with experienced players aged up to 23.

There is no mistaking the trailblazing efforts associated with the team names and the impact they have had at the VFL/AFL level.

The Rioli team named in honour of one of the families most synonymous with Territory footy. Particularly the late Maurice Rioli Snr, who was captain of the most famous NT representative team; the 1988 Bicentennial Carnival Division 2 champions. Maurice's son, Maurice Junior was ready to play however could not travel to the Territory from Melbourne due to COVID-19 implications and schooling commitments. His sister, Maria lined up for Team Hewett.

The McLean team was aptly named for the great Michael 'Mago' McLean, who represented the NT at senior level on eight occasions. He was also vice-captain of the 1988 Bicentennial Carnival team. Each year the best player in the NT Thunder Academy at Under 18 level is awarded the McLean Medal.

Following the All-Star games, two Territory players and Stephanie Williams were drafted into AFLW lists.

Good things come to those who wait, especially for Janet Baird who was drafted with the Gold Coast SUNS. Originally from Arnhem Land, Baird displayed resilience and persistence after having injuries hampering her ahead of the 2019 Draft.

A 2018/19 Gwynne Medallist (NTFL Women's best and fairest) and 2017/18 NTFL Women's Rising Star, Baird played 47 Premier League games and kicked 22 goals for the Palmerston Magpies.

Baird, who can play as an outside midfielder or as a medium-sized forward, also played NT Thunder U18s, National Allies and was in the NT Thunder VFL team.

She is no stranger to the Gold Coast SUNS, having spent two weeks training with the AFLW squad early on in 2020 in the lead-up to the U18 All-Stars game and AFLW Draft Combine.

Stephanie Williams was also part of the high-performance experiences at the Gold Coast SUNS but ended up at the Geelong Cats after nominating Victoria as her region of choice in the state-based Draft system.

A proud Larrakia woman, the 18-year-old is currently completing year 12 at Geelong

College, where she has boarded for the past couple of years and is now a school leader.

Williams has also represented NT Thunder U18s and the Central Allies as an electric small forward who has speed, agility and power.

For her home club, the Darwin Buffaloes, she has played 14 games in U18s and picked up two premierships and a Best on Ground medal along the way.

Our 2021 programs which we look forward to implementing come off the back of the ongoing relationship and our collaboration with the Gold Coast SUNS. This ongoing relationship will enable us to implement programs delivered by an AFL club across the NT. By providing opportunities from Under 12 and 13 years of age through to draft years, our players will learn to understand further from the younger age what an AFL club looks for in a player and understanding terminology from a younger age through our Talent programs through to when they are ready for their draft year.

Whilst players are still eligible for draft at the age of 18, programs in 2021 have been revised Nationally to an Under 17 and Under 19 age. This enables those players who may have missed last year, to still remain eligible for a further year in the Talent programs

Our NAB Under 19 girls will compete in 2 games kicking off a week post NTFL Grand Finals, whilst the boys will lay in 4 games commencing in late May, giving them a full pre season program leading into the first game.

We look forward to also hosting High Performance camps on the Gold Coast working closely with the Gold Coast SUNS.



COMMERCIAL & MARKETING



Like all components of the business in 2020, the Commercial and Marketing team were significantly impacted and interrupted by COVID-19.

That said, AFLNT found itself in a somewhat unique situation throughout COVID, due largely to the fact that the Northern Territory as a jurisdiction was reasonably unaffected.

It was highlighted by the fact we were able to complete our NTFL season with our Grand Final in March 2020 being the last mass gathering in Australia. Concern over COVID-19 in the days leading up to the Grand Final clearly had a minor impact on crowd numbers, including many regular interstate visitors who did not travel, however we were able to effectively fulfill the vast majority of our commercial obligations for our NTFL competition.

Although no crowd was able to travel to the Tiwi Islands the next day, AFLNT arranged the first live broadcast live to the rest of Australia.

We had a number of positive outcomes from our approach to the 2019/20 NTFL season; including increased gate sales, a revamped kiosk with substantially increased takings plus continued improvement on NTFL memberships. This led to further change throughout the offseason and allowed us to start the 2020/21 season with further improvements that we expect to reap benefits.

Despite being delayed by COVID, our dry season or winter competitions - BRFL, BAFL and CAFL – all were the first regional footy competitions to get underway in the nation and this created opportunities for us to deliver on existing commercial arrangements but also establish new partnerships.

The on-again, off-again impact of the previously scheduled national games impacted on the TIO Stadium hosting of NRL (plus other events) however in the end led to Darwin playing host to its first AFL Games double-header in a COVID-affected year.

This included our new “home team” Gold Coast SUNS playing Carlton as well as Richmond and Essendon in the much-anticipated Dreamtime Game. Our events and stadia team were stood up 10 days out from the event and the reception the games received nationally is a testament to their efforts. Images of the Dreamtime game captured the hearts and minds of footy fans right around the country and people are still talking about “that” Welcome to Country by our mate Richie Fejo!

It was also one of the first major crowds - albeit in a reduced capacity - however at approximately 65% capacity we were still the first jurisdiction to have more than 25% capacity which was the national standard at the time. The reduced capacity and being significant games also saw tickets to both games sold out in record time (under 15 mins).

The Events team backed up 6 days later to then deliver the Alice Springs clash between Melbourne and St Kilda with a reduced capacity sold-out for the game.

Our Commercial activity overall during the COVID year had its challenges with some deliverables unable to be met, however we were able to consolidate existing partnerships – our significant partnership with Territory Insurance Office (TIO) will go into its 30th year, plus we increased our partnerships with two existing partners in Cazalys Palmerston and INPEX. We are grateful for the continued support of our other key stakeholders in NT Government and MACC (through the Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre).

FACILITIES

TIO Stadium underwent a major refurbishment with the replacement of the roof which was co-ordinated in stages in order to successfully host the AFL Games

For the first time lights were installed at the spiritual home of footy in Darwin, Gardens Ovals. It is the first in a series of projects to bring lighting to key facilities in the Territory.

Installation of a Direct Video Network (DVN) for the first time at TIO Stadium, bringing the Stadium into line with other major stadiums to operate the AFL Review Centre (ARC) as well as Hawkeye/Goal Review.

An approved tender was awarded with design completed for a new replacement scoreboard at TIO Stadium.

Upgrades to ovals in remote areas, including Santa Teresa, Albrecht Oval (Alice Springs).

AFLNT CEO Stu Totham inspects the TIO Stadium replacement roof project with TIO CEO Darryl Madden and TIO Head of Brand, Marketing & Communications Ann Combe



COMMUNICATIONS & DIGITAL

Shane Inkamala defies gravity in his goal celebration in the CAFL U18 grand final



Communications and Digital team transformed in 2020, partly due to the restructuring that took place after the withdrawal of the NT Thunder senior teams, and also as a result of COVID-19.

Despite the challenges that 2020 presented, it was another successful year of audience growth and engagement, and unique and authentic NT football continued to be shared far and wide.

The majority of the work aided in promoting AFLNT and its associated programs and strategy. Community footy seasons continued albeit in a leaner more efficient way, while the unique situation bore some new ideas.

The stop to community footy meant new, innovative programs like the “From the Vault”

historical replay segment could provide entertainment and deliver on sponsor requirements not being fulfilled elsewhere. Thirteen episodes of From the Vault were delivered with zero costs being incurred by the organisation; it, in turn, generated 523,917 video views or 11,884 hours (495 days) of content. It also helped reestablish the passion and desire for representative footy.

The broadcast of the TIO CAFL season grew in 2020, the coverage increased from 10 games in 2019 to 13 games, once again delivered live into remote communities as well as Alice Springs and other Indigenous towns via ICTV. The concurrent stream on the AFLNT YouTube channel ensured it was also accessible anywhere in the world; the Division 1 Country League Grand Final between Western Arrente and Ltyentye Apurrtre attracted 12,533 views online or 2,900 hours.

With the CAFL and remote Central Australian carnivals being the first lot of community footy competitions in Australia to kickstart after COVID-19, AFLNT was able to package feature video pieces for AFL.com.au, Yokayi Footy and Channel 7.

This partnership extended to cover special behind the scenes stories and access of 'Dreamtime in Darwin', as well as the Big Rivers Football League and Keith Rogers the 62-year-old Bulldog (pictured bottom right). The boys from Papunya who took the NAB All Stars by storm was another shared bit of content, which in turn fed directly into the highest-ranking piece of media for football in the Northern Territory for EOFY 2020; Shane Inkamala's massive goal celebration leap in the Under 18s CAFL community grand final. The photo and video were shared by news.com.au, Yahoo Sport, ESPN, Fox Footy, The Front Bar, and Channel 7, and reached over 1.2 million people on the AFLNT Facebook page alone.

The 2019/20 TIO NTFL season delivered growth across broadcast, digital and social media. New television partnerships delivered two games on replay for most rounds; via long-standing partner, NITV and newcomer, Aboriginal Broadcasting. The latter also

included simulcast coverage across the NT via its radio arm. ABC Radio Darwin also continued its digital call of one game per weekend. At the same time, AFLNT used a pool of volunteer commentators to add commentary to more of the Men's Premier League games, as well as the Women's Premier League, Under 18s and Men's Division 1 key fixtures. There were 109 live streams, 64 of them with commentary, including a record-making five grand finals across the different divisions. A total of 102,317 hours (4,263 days) of NTFL games was consumed, which is an increase of 47% compared to season 2018/19.

In the lead-up to the 2020/21 TIO NTFL season, AFLNT used its platform to gather feedback on rule changes and the reintroduction of a representative side via social media polls, which generated social commentary and content for sports-hungry local media outlets to use.

The support of the AFL's three games in the Territory was delivered swiftly and coherently by the internal media team, and the coverage of remote football continued by utilising a network of freelance photographers and support staff on the ground.



AFLNT FINANCIAL REPORT

Year Ended 31 October 2020

The audited financial statements of AFL Northern Territory Limited, for the year ended 31 October 2020 are attached for your perusal and adoption at this meeting.

The notes below should be read in conjunction with the Financial Accounts to understand the organisation's financial affairs.

FINANCIAL POSITION

The Company has recorded a statutory profit of \$11,741 for the year ended 31st October 2020, which has increased the retained profits to \$103,809.

Key financial results for the 2020 Financial Year included:

1. Overall revenues decreased by \$3.7m largely due to decreased grants (\$1.1m) and reduced investment due to the impact of COVID-19 on the industry from parent entity the AFL (\$1.4m).
2. The territory was fortunate to have three AFL games played in Darwin and Alice Springs, but with lower crowds due to COVID-19 restrictions. While the NRL game was cancelled. Overall, this resulted in a \$260k unfavourable variance to revenue budget overall.
3. Employee expenses were lower than prior year and budget at \$4.31m. This was due to staff being stood down across the industry for an extended period throughout the year. There were 39 full time staff employed at the end of the financial year (prior year: 51)

4. There was a continued focus on renewing and retaining key government and corporate support for our Remote Programs.

Given the challenges faced across the AFL industry in 2020 this is a pleasing result and all staff of AFLNT should be congratulated.

The Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) is still strong with the current assets exceeding the current liabilities by \$74,664 which enables all accounts to be met as they fall due which is a healthy position to be in.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The AFLNT would again this year like to thank our ongoing and loyal sponsors and supporters, the AFL for their guidance and support and to the NT and Federal Governments a big thank you for your ongoing contribution to AFL Football in the NT. To our many other AFLNT, MLLLC and Affiliated Leagues, Club sponsors and supporters we appreciate all your support.

MOTION OF ACCEPTANCE

It is my pleasure, to move the adoption of the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Financial Position, in conjunction with the notes and Auditors Report for the year ended 31 October 2020.



Sean Bowden
Chairman – AFL Northern Territory

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Revenue	2	8,921,568	12,686,710
Expenses			
Cost of goods sold		(331,842)	(404,755)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		(88,004)	(73,588)
Employee expenses	3	(4,316,472)	(6,271,860)
Travel expenses		(258,903)	(1,527,754)
Football operations expenses		(1,355,069)	(2,174,409)
Game development expenses		(518,500)	(928,587)
Administration expenses		(425,091)	(511,156)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(1,615,946)	(1,216,291)
Net Profit/(Loss) for the year		11,741	(421,689)
Other comprehensive income for the period		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the period		11,741	(421,689)

The Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income is to be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the financial statements set out on pages 10 to 24

AFL NORTHERN TERRITORY WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING KEY CORPORATE PARTNERS FOR THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT

PREMIER PARTNERS



CORPORATE PARTNERS



MEDIA



OFFICIAL SPONSORS



PREFERRED SUPPLIERS



2020 AFL GAMES



NT footy fans were offered a once in a lifetime opportunity, with the AFL Premiership Season double header hosted at TIO Stadium. We saw NT's newest team, Gold Coast SUNS take on the Carlton Blues for a sold out Friday night blockbuster and the traditional 'Dreamtime' game between Essendon and Richmond making it to the Territory for the first time since the concept started in 2005.









**NORTHERN
TERRITORY**

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