



2020-21

ANNUAL REPORT



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In 2021 the Northern Territory football community again showed why football is such a special part of the Northern Territory community.

The NTFL and CAFL and all of our community competitions were completed in style. In the NTFL we witnessed one of the greatest grand finals of the modern era with the Nightcliff Tigers completing a triple premiership, and in the CAFL the Rovers Football Club won their fifth flag in a row.

All throughout the Territory people turned to AFL football in difficult times where day to day life was governed by the COVID pandemic.

Nevertheless we were not immune to the pandemic. In 2021 we were unable to host AFL Games in either Darwin or Alice Springs and the 2021/22 NTFL season has been challenged by the recent entry of COVID into the Northern Territory. But, again, the football community has held together. The continuation of the 2021/22 NTFL season is in great part down to the determination of Club President, the coaches, the umpires, the volunteers and the incredible AFLNT staff that have worked tirelessly to keep footballs in the hands of young men and women.

This hard work has seen club registration and participation rates jump considerably, especially amongst juniors and women. Participating teams in the NTFL are up from 67 to 97 in two years (with women's registrations up nearly 35%), a massive jump that has also brought parents and friends down to trainings nights, club functions and game day.

Overall Registration Growth in 2021/22 YTD is 23.47% which reflects the energy for the game in the Territory. Taking 2019/20 as a baseline registrations are up nearly 35% over the two year period.

Challenges lie ahead in terms of making sure the CAFL season can take place and that the Community Competition and the teams from Central Australia can play on. This is a major focus for all of us at AFLNT.

As is remote infrastructure, including improving facilities in Alice Springs. AFLNT will be advocating in 2022 for greater government investment in remote sports and municipal infrastructure and the expansion of our AFLNT Remote Projects. The Remote Projects are unique in the Australian sporting landscape operating since 2007 in over ten regions of the Territory and are the pride of AFLNT – our Remote Development Officers operate alone and in the remotest places of the Territory using the power of sport in community. We want to see these projects be able to do more with the continued support of the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments.

At a higher level AFLNT continues to support the construction of a new multi-purpose sports stadium in Darwin – the Territory Stadium - with a dollar for dollar commitment to remote infrastructure. This dollar for dollar formula would be a start in righting the inequities that exist between the urban areas and the remote areas. And it is critical to developing the talent pathways that will give remote sportsmen a shot at a career in the NTFL, or the CAFL, or the AFL.

And while a Territory Stadium in Darwin will remake Darwin and truly make us a Capital City an Territory AFL Team playing every

second week during the season for will give us all Territory-wide something to believe in, to aspire to. We will be introduced as a community to the highs and lows of having a truly Territory team to support. The Territory would never be the same. And we would be everyone's second team.

This year we farewelled Stuart Totham AFLNT's CEO for over four years and welcomed Sam Gibson who has shown great leadership in the short pandemic-challenged time he has been in charge. Sam Gibson and Leigh Elder AFLNT's Community Football Manager have been instrumental in establishing the safe environments and maintaining the confidence of clubs to adapt and keep football playing in the face of the surge in COVID cases in the Territory.

We have welcomed Josie Douglas on the AFLNT Board to represent Central Australia upon the retirement of David Ross. Ted Liddy, our longest serving Board member has stood down recently after a lifetime of making an incredible contribution to Northern Territory football. We have embraced and cheered and farewelled Eddie Betts, taken counsel from Nathan Buckley and watched our NT Representative Team beat the South Australian premiers.

In closing, I just want to thank I want to acknowledge our Life Members and thank them for their life-long service to the game. Thank you to 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.

S. Bowden

Sean Bowden
Chairman



23.47%

Registration Growth
in 2021/22 YTD



CEO REPORT

2021 was another big year for footy across the NT and another with significant challenges posed by the ongoing impact of COVID-19.

In continuing to work through turbulent times, substantial work has been done across all six of our Strategic Pillars of Sustainability, Football Talent, Growth, Engagement, Community Impact and an NT AFL Team.

Community football remains at the heart of everything we do and 2021 was another year that didn't disappoint. The completion of the NTFL season in March was, as always, a highlight for the year with high quality Grand Finals across Divisions, highlighted by a thrilling Men's Premier League Grand Final won by Nightcliff in extra-time. Through AFLNT's partnership with the NT News we were able to send this game far and wide with more than 20,000 screens tuned in to watch, half of these being interstate.

Whilst thrilling grand finals get the headlines, it is the work done by many at the grass roots that underpins the success of community footy in the NT. I would like to thank and congratulate everyone involved in this space across the various competitions conducted in the Territory. It is this hard work, dedication and collaboration that sees trophies raised at the end of the year and contributes so greatly to the role our sport plays in the community. I also want to touch on the growth we have experienced in community footy. With a 13% increase in female participation in the past twelve months, continued growth in junior and youth participation, around 100,000

people through the gates at TIO Stadium, 400 teams in affiliated competitions and the highest per capita participation rates in the country, footy has a bright future across the NT.

From a talent perspective a lot of work has been done to continue to provide opportunities for young people from across the Territory to fulfil their potential, despite the ongoing COVID challenges. Our connection with the Gold Coast Suns continued to be strong and was solidified when Ashanti Bush was drafted to the club with pick 8 in the AFLW draft, followed by Sandy Brock's pre-selection by the Suns. In further draft success Andy Moniz-Wakefield joined Melbourne, Jesse Motlop was selected by Carlton and Jack Peris headed to StKilda.

It was a frustrating year with respects to bringing AFL matches to the Territory. Games that were scheduled and then rescheduled in both Darwin and Alice Springs ultimately didn't eventuate due to the significant challenges facing the game nationally. Whilst this was disappointing, a lot of work went into ensuring that if the possibility arose we were ready to host which is a credit to the team. We look forward to bringing three games to the Territory in 2022.

Our work in providing more opportunities for all Territorian's to enjoy the games, including those in remote parts of the NT, continued in 2021 despite the COVID related challenges. Having a team dedicated to this work, as well as a team driving such terrific outcomes at the MLLLC, has such a positive impact on the community which can be difficult to measure. Moving forward we look forward

to continuing to advance this work with the variety of stakeholders engaged.

Joining AFLNT just prior to the commencement of the 2021/22 TIO NTFL season it was evident that despite the challenges of the past 24 months, the organisation and its people had a clear direction and a passion for making a difference. As such, I must acknowledge and thank Stu Totham for his substantial contribution to the game in the NT. I would also like to acknowledge AFLNT Chairman Sean Bowden for his support and guidance and the AFLNT Board for their ongoing commitment to the sport.

A big thanks must go to our long term partner TIO for their ongoing support for the game across the Territory. 2021 was a significant year for this partnership being the 35th year TIO has supported our game. I would also like to thank premier partners Cazaly's Palmerston Club and both the Australian and Northern Territory Government's for their continued support of the game in the NT.

Finally I would like to thank all AFLNT staff, and those supporting us nationally, for their work over the past twelve months. At times it hasn't been easy but the strong resolve within the team and a clear appetite to drive the game forward, holds the game in great stead.

As we look forward into 2022 and beyond there are a number of key things that drive us. This includes a continuation of our focus on supporting growth in community football, driving the development of facilities across the NT and reconfiguring how we go about providing pathways in footy. We're also focussed on driving greater participation and engagement in our game and supporting the thousands of people that are pivotal to the game across the NT.



Sam Gibson
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
- ▶ Premiership Coach, Rovers FC, CAFL 1996



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 with experience in Education, Employment, Training, Youth affairs, Aboriginal Health, Law & Order.
- ▶ Member of well-respected local sporting family



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.



MR LINCOLN JENKIN

- ▶ Regional Manager of Carlton & United Breweries NT
- ▶ NT resident for 38 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
- ▶ Is involved with NT Masters AFL
- ▶ Is a lifelong Essendon Bombers supporter



MRS KATHLEEN COLE

- ▶ Bachelor of Business – Major Accounting
- ▶ Graduate Diploma of Public Health – Indigenous Health
- ▶ Masters of Community Management
- ▶ Fellow of Australian Certified Accountants
- ▶ CEO of Cancer Council NT
- ▶ Executive Management within NT 15 years
- ▶ Member of Waratahs Football Club 12 years



MR THOMAS WILCOX

- ▶ Over 17 year's 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
- ▶ Football Association



MR DAVID ROSS

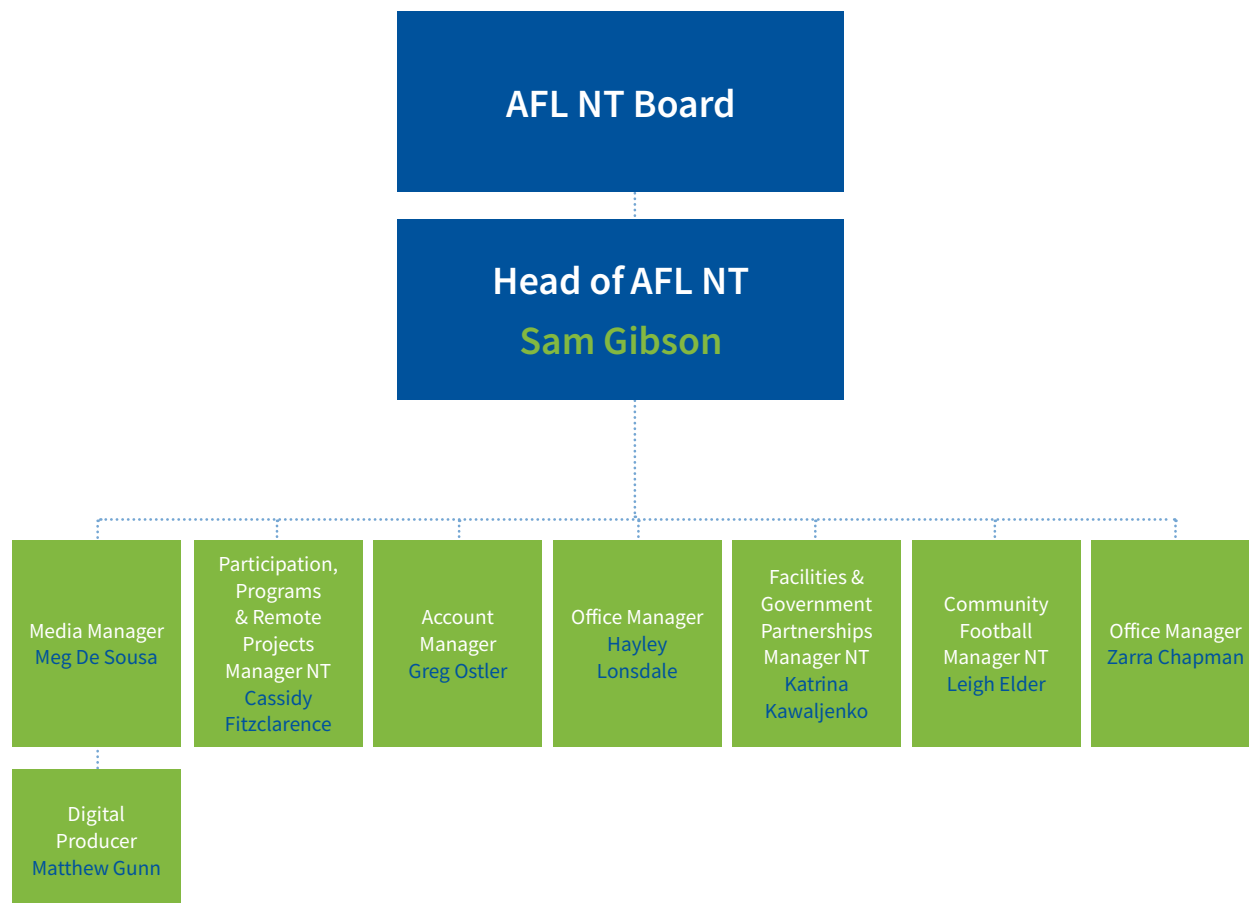
- ▶ Director Central Land Council – 25 years
- ▶ Chairman Indigenous Land Corporation – 4 years
- ▶ Commissioner, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Commission – 4 years
- ▶ Committee Member Alice Springs Regional Council, (ATSIC) – 3 years
- ▶ Former Board Member, Imparja Television
- ▶ Former Member, 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



DR JOSIE DOUGLAS

- ▶ Central Australian Aboriginal Congress CEO
- ▶ 2017 Awarded the W.H Stanner Award for her PhD research on young people and intergenerational transmission and acquisition of ecological knowledge.

AFL NORTHERN TERRITORY ORGANISATIONAL CHARTS



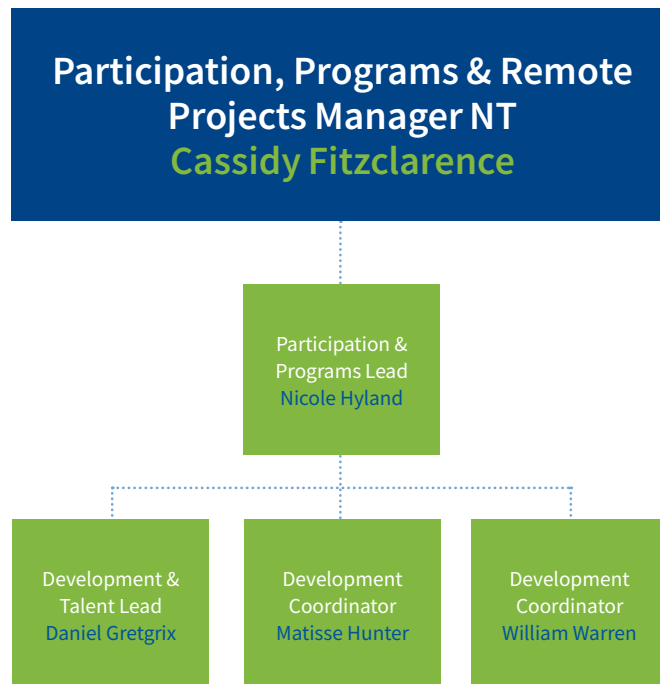
COMMERCIAL, MARKETING & CLUB DEVELOPMENT



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 MLLCC 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

	Clubs	Players	Umpires	Volunteers	Government	Community Groups	Partners
Enablers	Commercial & Marketing	Communication & Digital	Football Operations	Game Development	MLLCC, Remote & Facilities	NT Thunder	Talent & Pathways
Values							

COMMUNITY FOOTBALL



CAFL

The 2021 TIO CAFL Season was full of excitement and saw a record number of player registrations after the Under 15 and Under 18 Junior Men Competitions were reinstated and the long-awaited introduction of the Under 16 Junior Women Competition.

With lights now installed at Albrecht Oval, there was capacity to grow the Competition; 44 Teams competed in over 200 matches each Home & Away Round.

For the first time, the Senior Women's Grand Final was held on a Friday night in conjunction with the inaugural Under 16 Junior Women and the reinstated Under 15 Junior Men. These competitions attracted many families and saw a supporter base just shy of 1000 people attend. Rising Star and Best on Ground recipient Kyanne Campbell led Rovers to an inaugural Under 16 Junior Women Premiership and the Club continued the celebrations by winning their second straight Senior Women Premiership. The Under 15 Junior Men Grand Final was a thriller, with Federal upsetting South Alice Springs to claim the victory.

Minor Premiers, South Alice Springs took out the Under 18 Junior Men Premiership on Saturday afternoon, before Rovers continued their dominance, taking home the Reserve Grade Senior Men and their fifth straight Senior Men Premiership under lights.

Plenty Highway continued their rivalry with Ltyentye Apurte through to the Community Under 18 Junior Men Grand Final, where a kick just before the final siren split the two teams and saw Plenty Highway make history, winning their first TIO CAFL Premiership.

The 2021 Community Senior Men Competition was extremely competitive, with the final ladder placings determined by the results of the final Home & Away Round. Mt Allan and Titjikala breezed through the Division 2 Qualifying and Preliminary Finals, facing off in the Grand Final, where Daniel Stafford kicked 9 goals to lead the Eagles to an inaugural Premiership. 2020 Division 2 and 2021 Minor Premiers, Yuendumu were upset by Western Aranda in the Division 1 Preliminary Finals. Papunya defeated Ti Tree in the second Division 1 Preliminary Final, before proving too strong for Western Aranda, taking claim of a consecutive Division 1 Community Senior Men Premiership.

Acknowledged for his standout Season, Nigel Lockyer Jnr. from Rovers was awarded the 2021 Minahan Medal, while West's Caitlin Couch was honored with the Senior Women's Margaret Liddle Medal. Jayden Reiff took home both the Community Under 18 Leading Goal Kicker and the Wenton Rubuntja Medal as Geoffrey Pareroultja's dominating performance in the Community Senior Men earned him the Williams/Pareroultja Medal.

AFLNT wish to extend their gratitude and thank all volunteers for their tireless work throughout the 2021 Season. We look forward to welcoming you all to what promises to be an even bigger 2022 TIO CAFL Season!





BAFL

The thirty first season of the Barkly Australian Football League saw the return of the Janapurlalki Eagles and Barkly Work Camp to make a 6 team A-grade competition. Borrooloola also joined the senior competition and throughout the season, travelled over 13,000km for the year.

Elliott Oval was again used as a venue and has now hosted four matches across the past two seasons. Spitfires and Eagles met in the Grand Final on the 18th September in hot conditions but that did not stop the teams giving their all. It was the Spitfires that claimed premiership number sixteen with a ten-goal winning margin. Michael Howse from Spitfires was named best on ground with five goals to his name.

Dallas Scobie from Barkly Work Camp became their first ever Patrons Medallist and he was also the leading goal kicker in the league.

In the U13 and U16 competitions, Spitfires also took the titles.

The AFL Community Camp was held virtually and several schools in the Barkly were able to engage with Collingwood AFL players through the Zoom platform.

In the representative space. The Town v Country concept made a comeback with a club challenge which was used as a tool for selecting a Town and Country sides, whom faced off in a shortened match with Country taking the win.

Lachlan Dunemann and Andrew Green represented at U18 NT Thunder level and those two were joined by Stanley Waistcoat, Tyrell Mick and Anthony Raymond to participate in the NAB League Challenge game played at TIO Stadium in late September.



BRFL

The Big Rivers Football League formerly known as the Katherine District Football League entered its thirty fourth season in 2021.

To kick the season off was the annual Umpires Carnival which provides match play for teams to get some miles in the legs and the opportunity for umpires to come and have a go. Tiwi Bombers were successful in the women's whilst the Garrak Bombers took out the men's competition.

The following week saw round 1 of the BRFL with the customary airshow out at Tindal on Anzac Day weekend. In 2021 the Seniors men's competition consisted of eight teams and five teams in senior women's competition. The season was running like a dream until covid showed its head and a couple of rounds near the end of the season were called a washout. After working through this fork in the road the competition pushed on. Making the finals in the Men's were Katherine South, Katherine Camels, Ngukuur Bulldogs and the Arnhem Crows. Katherine South and the Katherine Camels progressed through the finals into the big dance which was taken out by Katherine South for back-to-back premierships. In the

Women's competition, 2020 premiers the Arnhem Crows faced off against Katherine South in the Grand Final. In a ripping game of footy the Arnhem Crows snuck home for back-to-back premierships. Both games were streamed live in a first for Big Rivers footy.

Unfortunately, the 16's competition which runs in the wet season had to be called off after only 2 rounds due to covid.

Youth and junior footy was prominent throughout the year including Auskick, Gala days and the highlight a successful under 12's school-based completion in terms 2 and 4 which saw nearly 150 kids play in each term. School based and extracurricular football programs were also run throughout the year in 11 different remote communities and Boroloola attended a week-long trip to the Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre in Darwin.

Barunga Festival was again a massive success in the long weekend in June. Ten teams made the journey to Barunga to compete with the fellas from Santa Teresa, a lazy 1200km away, taking out the carnival. Unfortunately, the Freedom Day festival in Kalkarindji was cancelled for the second year in a row.

Looking forward to an entertaining and successful year in 2022.

NTFL

Nightcliff Football Club made it a hat-trick in 2020/21 with a 7-point victory in extra time over St Mary's Football Club in one of the most exciting TIO NTFL Men's Premier League Grand Finals played in the history of the competition.

This was the first draw since the 1932/33 season.

The TIO NTFL was fortunate enough not to have any COVID-19 postponements throughout the 2020/21 season. St Mary's Raphael Clarke was awarded the 2020/21 Chaney Medal for being the best player in the Grand Final.

The TIO NTFL Women's Premier League saw PINT take out their first-ever Premier League premiership defeating Darwin by 11 points; Jasmine Hewitt capped off her Steller year by being named the Williams Medallist. These awards finished off a fantastic year for the PINT football Club in which they also took the silverware home in the Men's Div 1, Div 2 & Women's Div 2.

The Nichols Medal was awarded to Nightcliff's Dominic Brew. Brew made himself known as the league's best tackler, landing 130 tackles this season ahead of the 90 tackles Dean Staunton of Southern Districts made. He finished the Nichols vote count on 27; 10 votes are clear of fellow midfielder and Werribee teammate Dane McFarlane of Wanderers and 12 ahead of dual CAFL Minahan Medal winner Abraham Ankers of Waratah.

In the TIO NTFL Women's Premier League division, PINT's Jasmyn Hewett was the clear Gwynne Medal winner, deeming herself untouchable from Round 15. Nightcliff Captain Eliza Morrison came in second with 28 votes, and Darwin Buff Dominique Carbone received 19. This year Hewett polled the same number of votes as last season's winner, Lisa Roberts, with 37 points – the highest number of votes the Women's Premier League award has seen as well as being a star ruckman, Hewett led PINT's goal-scoring and ended the season on 23 goals.

Wanderer's Brett Eddy claimed the Dennis Dunn Leading Goal Kicking award presented by Darwin Family Law with 68 goals to his name in the Premier League season.





Waratah's Lisa Miceli took home the Women's Premier League Leading Goal Kicking award for her 37 goals. Palmerston Magpies' reliable mid Ryan Warfe was awarded the Men's NT News Rising Star award with St Mary's sensation J'Noemi Anderson winning the NT News Rising Star for the Women. At just 16 years old, Anderson utilised her energetic talent to make her mark while playing in the Women's Premier League grade this season.

Twenty-one-year-old mid fielder Dylan Landt of St Mary's was awarded the NT News/

De Silva Hebron Player of the Year. Landt possesses elite speed and agility, helping him to score 12 goals and appear in the bests 14 times this season.

Last season's Nichol's Medal joint-winner Brodie Filo of Nightcliff was awarded the ABC Player of the Year tonight. In addition to being a gun midfielder, Filo also put 17 goals on the board this season, along with appearing 11 times in bests.

In Men's Division 1, Jonathon Lanyon of Banks Bulldogs took home the Mitch Lee Medal with 16 votes and Darren Ewing, also from Banks, kicked 62 goals this season, crowning him as the Men's Division 1 Leading Goal Kicker.

Men's Division 2 Lancaster Medal saw Mitchell Johnston of Waratah win by receiving 13 votes and Richard Baldock of Banks Bulldogs kicked 52 goals this season and was awarded the Men's Division 2 Leading Goal Kicker. In Women's Division 2, Southern Districts' Missy Munro received the Best and Fairest award with 14 votes and Keeley Waterbury lead the goal kicking with 20 majors this season.

The 2020/21 Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Shane Carrol of Waratah for his coaching contributions and assistance roles he plays within the Club and NTFL.

UMPIRES

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

As AFLNT continues to work in line with the Future Direction of Umpiring Strategy, the strategic pillars continue to develop by ensuring a high-quality pool of coaches and support staff, provision of clear pathways and strengthen resources, management structure and policies. Although there has been a slight decline in umpire numbers, the long-term vision for recruitment and retention remains a key focus.

As we all recognise, without umpires we don't have football competitions across the NT. We have seen and greatly appreciate the herculean efforts from some of umpires travelling between towns and communities to ensure footy can go ahead. Some travelling as far 700km to adjudicate games!

The NT saw national recognition for appointing the first ever full female panel in a senior men's game, during the Central Australian Football League 2021 season.

Three Umpires (Brodie Morcom, Darien Blair, Kyriakos Lambrindis) represented the Northern Territory at the AFL National Under 19s Girls competition.

We also saw increase in participation at Come and Try Umpiring evenings in the NTFL, CAFL and BRFL.

Many community umpire courses were conducted to remote communities, including a basic umpire's course at Datjala Work Camp – NT Correction in Gove which had 25 prisoners complete the course and go on to officiate in the Gove FL.

The most prestigious award AFLNT across our main competitions is the Golden Whistle. Congratulations to the following umpires who received the Golden Whistle in 2020/21.

NTFL Darien Blair

BRFL Daryl Grahek

CAFL Nicholas Boffa

AFLNT congratulates Joel Morrison as the recipient of the ABC Umpire of the Year for the TIO NTFL 2020/21.



GAME DEVELOPMENT



2021 has been an important year to refocus and reinvigorate the AFLNT Game Development programs after the impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic in 2020.

Government restrictions on public sport and gatherings, meant the national AFL Game Development programs were severely impacted in 2020, most notably in Victoria and New South Wales. Programs in the Northern Territory didn't suffer as much; however, the disruptions were enough to require a reset from the AFL Game Development team in 2021 to rebuild programs and participation outcomes.

The greatest impacts of Covid 19 to the AFLNT GD programs were staff changes from stand downs, reduced team structure and loss of experienced staff. Despite these challenges

the team focused on settling the ship by recommencing several programs that had halted in 2020 and rebuilding participation outcomes toward the outcomes of 2019. All initiatives were designed to support strong local AFL clubs with aligned player pathways from Auskick to senior football.

Auskick programs came back on board throughout the Northern Territory in 2021 with new Centers commencing through the Banks Football Club, Gray Auskick Centre and the Haileybury after school program. Auskick recommenced in Katherine after some down time and the remote development managers delivered powered by Auskick programs extensively. The number of NTFL clubs taking ownership over their own Auskick centers continued to grow with support from the AFLNT Game Development team. The Game Development team and the newly formed AFLNT Club Development Manager will continue work with clubs throughout the NT

to ensure they take ownership over Auskick centers going forward.

A new initiative trialed throughout 2021 were the Auskick and U10's come and try events. These events were used for new participants to trial programs before committing to an entire season. The come and try days were designed to be exciting events with music, jumping castles, face painting, free coffee and muffins for parents and readily available information on AFLNT programs. These events were a wonderful way to engage with the community directly and share information on our upcoming programs.

Thunder Juniors (Under 10's & U12's) recommenced in Alice Springs and Tenant Creek in 2021 with strong results. Over 130 participants engaged in competitions, almost twice as many as the last full season and more than any other season since 2012. An additional outcome of these competitions was the support shown by parents through proactively coaching and umpiring, a tribute to the strong relationships between AFLNT staff in the Alice Springs community. A special thanks to the Gap Road Youth Center and the teachers from the Hermannsburg Aboriginal community who supported the competitions by driving players to matches.

AFLNT hosted the largest ever dry season AFL 9's competition in 2021 with 17 teams registering across two divisions. This increased from 12 teams in 2020, with both divisions being hotly contested and played in good spirits. Diversity and Inclusion programs were also trialed in 2021 for people with physical and intellectual disabilities. A wheelchair AFL competition was co delivered with 'Disability Sports NT'. The success of this trial led to the acquisition of sports specific wheelchairs and plans for a regular wheelchair AFL competition to be established in 2022. Specifically designed footballs for

people with visual impairments were also acquired in 2021 with plans to expand these programs in years ahead.

The national AFL Inclusion carnival did not take place in 2020 or 2021 due to travel restrictions between the states and territories. To ensure the NT squad stayed engaged AFLNT hosted a local inclusion carnival for intellectually disabled footballers late in 2021, including draft combine testing and a social get together. Further plans are underway to keep the squad engaged leading towards the return of the national carnival in 2022.

School based Game Development programs continued throughout all urban and regional centers in 2021. The highlight of these programs were the Term 3 Gala days throughout the top end with a record number of 31 'Cracka Cup' male teams and 22 'Pink Power' girls teams registering to participate. Due to the high registration numbers of additional events were hosted in Palmerston to cater for the high number of teams from that region.

2021 saw the successful transition from AFLNT managed and led Under 10's teams to fully NTFL club managed. The plan to commence this transition began in 2018 when the 'Thunder Juniors' competition was realigned to NTFL Under 10's, while remaining managed by AFLNT staff. For the 2021 season teams were organized by NTFL clubs along with player registrations and arranging player apparel. This is a wonderful outcome for the NTFL competition and demonstrates the positive steps being taken by NTFL clubs. 21 teams registered for the 2021/22 U10s competition, with 414 participants in total, up from 17 teams and 353 participants in 2020/21. The future of the NTFL junior and senior competitions is looking healthy and pathways continue to strengthen.



AFLNT REMOTE PROJECTS



The AFLNT Remote Projects team continued to deliver strong community wide outcomes through AFL programs in 2021.

The remote projects are one of few teams in the AFL who remained active in their roles throughout the Covid pandemic, even while biosecurity zones were established and the majority of AFLNT staff were stood down. This team has demonstrated a high degree of resilience, flexibility, and creativity to continue to support their communities throughout this period.

Some remote Aboriginal communities have been hesitant to re-engage in AFL

competitions and programs following the Covid outbreaks. The Remote Development Managers therefore explored new and creative means to stay engaged with their participants, such as in Central Australia following the closure of community carnivals. To provide an engaging and meaningful replacement the 'Footy for Life' program was developed for disengaged members of the Alice Springs community. This program is a safe and welcoming space for disengaged and disabled people in Alice Springs to come together each week to learn new footy skills and have positive social interactions. With interest growing throughout the year, this program became one of the major success stories of 2021. Leading towards Central Australian AFLNT RDM Tommy Dutton

earning employee of the year award and recognition through the Alice Springs Town Council.

Female AFL programs continued to expand throughout the remote communities with some significant growth demonstrated in 2021. This growth was demonstrated through the first ever women's AFL competition in Wadeye taking place in conjunction with the men's wet season competition. This competition consisted of two teams from Wadeye and two from surrounding communities, Palumpa and Peppimernarti. Groote Eylandt also took some positive steps with women's football programs through regular local development sessions and an exhibition match against Gove as a curtain raiser to the 2021 GAFL Grand final. The new ground these two regions have broken is evidence that anything is possible with the right support structures in place.

The AFLNT remote projects team expanded to include the remote Aboriginal community of Gunbalanya in 2021. This outcome is the result of years of planning and funding support through the Federal Government, Stronger Communities for Children program. A wide range of school based, and community programs were delivered throughout the year including the first community-based men's football competition since 2018. A focus moving forward will be ensuring this project is a permanent component of the remote projects team, adding to the existing projects in the West Arnhem region.

A change in personnel saw great program development and consistent participation outcomes throughout the Tiwi Islands project in 2021. Following some difficult years embedding programs it has been incredibly positive to see weekly youth football competitions and program engagement throughout the islands. Weekly Under 12's and Under 16's competitions, school holiday programs and Auskick programs have all contributed to strong participation outcomes leading towards strong player pathways into AFLNT talent programs and the Tiwi Bombers programs.

There has also been extensive program and competition growth throughout Katherine and the Big Rivers region through the newly formed Youth Development role in the region. This role has embedded Auskick, Under 12's and U16's competitions in Katherine while engaging with remote community schools throughout the Big Rivers region.

AFLNT has also mapped out a collaborative plan with the Federal Government department of NIAA for the ongoing support for the remote projects' portfolio. This collaboration will ensure all AFLNT community programs meet the government's key objectives and align with the 2020 Closing the Gap Targets, while also exploring a diverse range of potential funding avenues. In the meantime, the remote projects team will continue to ensure all programs achieve positive social, education, health and employment outcomes through AFL focused initiatives.



MICHAEL LONG LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP CENTRE



The Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre programs successfully returned in 2021.

The Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre programs successfully returned in 2021. Travel restrictions to remote Aboriginal communities and AFL staff stand downs meant MLLLC Camps were not possible following the early camps in February 2020.

In March 2021, former *MLLLC Education Coordinator* Amanda Marshall took over leading the reinvigoration of MLLLC programs. Amanda returned to AFLNT following two years teaching in the remote Aboriginal community of Gunbalanya bestowing her with a wealth of relevant and recent experience for the MLLLC programs.

The first MLLLC live in camps recommenced in May 2021, following a 14-month hiatus of

programs with an avid update from remote community schools. The *Make your Mark* camps continued throughout Terms 2 and 3 but were unfortunately impacted again by Covid 19 mid way through term 4.

The MLLLC *Make Your Mark* Leadership Program is a football themed week of education covering health, literacy and numeracy, team building, leadership skills, creative arts, and goal setting. Students experience local boarding schools and Darwin sightseeing including the wave pool, bowling, Darwin Museum, and the beach.

In total 153 students from 15 remote Aboriginal communities attended the *Make your Mark* education and leadership camps throughout 2021. Students represent over 13 major language groups and travelled over 20,000kms by bus, airplane, and ferry to attend camps in Darwin from various remote regions of the NT.

Feedback from the camps was also very positive with 100% of remote community schoolteachers suggesting the MLLLC Programs increased school attendance and student engagement. Over 92% of the students surveyed stated that attending the MLLLC Camps encouraged them to be more committed to their schooling and 89% of students said they felt like leaders because of completing the MLLLC programs.

In addition to delivering camps, a major focus for 2021 was initiating external evaluation of the MLLLC education and leadership programs, student curriculum, camp operations and strategies. AFLNT engaged Charles Darwin University to assist with this evaluation with an MoU developed between the two organizations. This agreement is designed to utilize the academic expertise of CDU to evaluate current MLLLC programs with a lens to ensure AFLNT delivers the most impactful and engaging programs for students from remote Aboriginal communities. In return AFLNT will share its extensive networks throughout remote and

regional communities with CDU for their own student engagement outcomes. This relationship will expand throughout 2022 with further opportunities identified by both organizations.

Some significant partnerships were also extended throughout 2021 with INPEX committing to continue to support the MLLLC programs into 2022. INPEX have shown ongoing support to the MLLLC programs throughout the Covid pandemic, which is a wonderful testament to their patience and commitment to the AFLNT community programs. INPEX were thrilled to see students return to the center and hear about the plans for the programs.

The Northern Territory Government Department of Education have also continued to support the MLLLC with ongoing funding for the residential camps. This funding support from the Department of Education is essential for the ability to deliver programs, along with NT Transition Support Unity and MACC Road Safety who are heavily invested in supporting the programs.



TALENT



The 2021 Talent season kicked off the week following NTFL Grand Finals with our Under 19 girls travelling to Melbourne to play the GWV Rebels in Ballarat

The first half was a tight contest and the girls went into the main break 1 goal down. The 2nd half the girls came out and showed relentless pressure which showed through on the scoreboard running out eventual winners also being our Academy girls first ever National Talent win.

The girls went onto compete against Tasmania the following week going down by 25 points. 7 Girls were subsequently nominated for Allies selection with 4 girls going on to be selected in the final 24. J'Noemi Anderson, Ashanti Bush, Kasey Marsden and Grace Mulvahil all getting the opportunity.

3 Girls also gained AFLW Draft Combine nominations with Bella Clarke, Grace Mulvahil and Ashanti Bush all being nominated. Both Bella and Grace finishing top 5 in a number of testing results. In the AFLW draft Ashanti Bush was selected by the Gold Coast Suns at pick 8. NT's first Top 10 draft pick in the AFLW competition.

Hailing from Beswick, a small Indigenous community about 80km east of Katherine, Bush has played a handful of games with Hawthorn's VFLW team this year. She's a highly skilful forward with strong hands overhead, but is also equally dangerous at ground level with her evasiveness and football smarts. The Suns has a very strong relationship with the NT through our Academy programs up in Darwin and it's fantastic to have players like Ashanti make their way on to our AFLW list. Bush is a NAB AFLW Academy and NT-based SUNS Academy member and follows in the footsteps of fellow NT product Janet Baird who was drafted by the SUNS in 2020.

Our Under 19 male squad were scheduled to play 4 NAB League games, due to Covid impacting the East Coast the boys managed 2 games. 1 against Tasmania in Craigieburn and a follow up NAB game against GWS Giants in Sydney, before Covid impacted the season. We continued training and also played 3 internal trial games on a Saturday morning flying in players from Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Tiwi and East Arnhem to provide further opportunities and prepare for when we could possibly get games away.

Our Under 16 girls still managed to get there National program away as this was run Intrastate with our first ever National Talent game hosted in Central Australia at TIO Traeger Park, this was followed up the following week with a game in Darwin and our male NAB Challenge game making it a double header of Talent for the NT all games were live-streamed across the AFLNT channels, meaning AFL clubs could tune in;

In November we were lucky enough to have 4 boys selected in the AFL draft, Sandy Brock was a pre-selection with the Gold Coast Suns, Andy Moniz-Wakefield was selected as an NGA member to Melbourne, Jesse Motlop selected at Carlton and Jack Peris similar to Andy with a selection at St Kilda via the NGA selection as a Cat B Rookie.

We implemented our new advisory group through a Talent and High Performance Advisory Group, consisting of NT Club personnel, Remote Development Manager's and Kevin Sheehan who is the National Talent Ambassador for the AFL based out of AFL House.

In 2022 we look forward to continuing to build on our relationship with the Gold Coast Suns 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.

The National programs revert to pre Covid programs with programs being back at Under 16 and Under 18 age.

Our Under 18 girls have been provided an opportunity to play 1 NAB League game against the Murry Bushrangers again the week after NTFL Grand Finals and will then break before returning for a Winter series where they will be given an opportunity to compete against both Sydney and GWS AFLW squads.

We look forward to also working with the Gold Coast Suns and providing further opportunities for players to experience the life in an AFL and AFLW club environment.

While we look forward to delivering an Under 15 Michael Long Cup, Under 16 Nationals for the boys on the Gold Coast and Under 16 Girls Intrastate NAB AFLW Championship series again which will be played across Alice Springs and Darwin.



COMMERCIAL & MARKETING



With COVID still on our doorstep in 2021, Commercial activities were again challenging for the AFLNT.

This required our staff to be agile, creative and determine to ensue activities continues as normal as possible.

Community Football Competitions went ahead with positive results in all regions. The NTFL season had a record number of teams and had over 80,000 people through the gates at TIO Stadium. The season concluded with PINT winning their first ever Women's Premier League Grand Final and Nightcliff creating a threeppeat in a thriller in overtime.

A casualty of COVID in 2021 was the cancelation of AFL Games in Darwin and Alice Springs. Throughout the year, these

games were scheduled then rescheduled several times, however did not eventuate due to ongoing issues with travel restrictions.

Our media footprint continues to expand creating Commercial opportunities for sponsors and stakeholders alike. Our relationship with the NT News continues to grow with a total of 134,000 views behind the pay wall of MPL, with the highest audience of 22,000 for the MPL Grand Final

A highlight of 2021 was the recommitment of TIO to our 2 main competitions. TIO signed a 5 year Sponsorship extension for the NTFL and a 3 year extension for CAFL. The partnership between TIO and the AFLNT has been rewarding and beneficial to both parties and we continue to embrace this relationship. The AFLNT are grateful to all our Sponsors who generously support Football throughout the NT.

FACILITIES

More upgrades to TIO Stadium were undertaken in 2021 with the installation of a new state of the art scoreboard which has enhanced the spectator experience at the venue.

AFLNT also undertook a range of minor upgrades and refurbishments across the precinct including new goal posts, refurbished amenities, replacement of shade structures and painting in various parts. Continuing to develop both TIO and TIO 2 is a priority of AFLNT.

Minor upgrades were also made over at the MLLLC with painting, furniture replacement and refurbished accommodation the key activities. As the MLLLC is now nearing seven year in age, continuing to invest in the maintenance and further development of the facility is required.

A crucial upgrade was also made in Alice Springs with lights being installed at Albrecht Oval. Lights provide greater year round flexibility at community ovals for playing and training, as such AFLNT are pleased that this upgrade was made possible. 2021 also saw the completion of the development of the Santa Teresa Oval. The project, which was officially completed in June 2021, saw the grassing of the oval among other upgrades, creating the 'MCG of the desert'. The project was possible thanks largely to the Melbourne Football Club, through its Facilities Development Fund, at the request of the Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation (AAAC).



COMMUNICATIONS & DIGITAL



A fresh new look to the Communications and Media team came in 2021 after the restructuring during the year prior.

Despite continued COVID-19 challenges presented throughout the year across all NT regions, it was another successful year of substantial audience growth and increased engagement while authentic NT football was shared far and wide.

The majority of the work aided in promoting AFLNT both locally and nationally through its associated programs and strategy. Community footy seasons continued and were completed, albeit in slightly leaner ways and not without challenges.

Even though the Big Rivers Football League season was hit by COVID-19, resulting in the Grand Final day being pushed back, the

Men's and Women's 2021 season concluded with both Grand Finals livestreamed and televised via NITV nationwide for the first time. The Women's match which saw Arnhem Crows victorious over Katherine South has over 2,100 AFLNT YouTube streams and the Men's game between Katherine Camels and Katherine South has just under 5,000. With the Big Rivers Football League growing substantially this season with an increase of around 25% of participants across the board as well as the introduction of a club aligned Junior series, AFLNT were ecstatic for the opportunity to grow the profile of the league even more.

Expanding on from previous years, the TIO CAFL Central Desert Community competition grew in 2021. The coverage increased from 13 games in 2020 to 16, 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 accessible anywhere in the world. The Division 1 Community Grand Final between Papunya and Western Aranda attracted 11,600 views online with the Under 18 Junior Men Grand Final between Ltyentye Apurte and Plenty Highway gathered 11,800 views.

Throughout 2021, AFLNT was able to package feature pieces for AFL.com.au, Womens.afl, Yokayi Footy and Channel 7. From shining a light on Central Australia's Wellbeing Wednesday program with inspirational Caleb who loves working on his footy skills in his wheelchair, Eddie Betts playing footy in the Top End and this impressive backflip from Collin Hayes after winning the Under 15's TIO CAFL Grand Final.

The 2020/21 TIO NTFL season delivered growth across broadcast, digital and social media. New partnerships delivered livestream Men's Premier League games through the NT News and a match of the round on replay via long-standing partner,

NITV. 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 an increase of 17 matches across the grades livestreamed. Across the Men's Premier League alone, a total 1,025,786 eyes were on the competition.

A year of focussing on increasing social media engagement, especially on Instagram saw the number of followers grow from 7,124 to 12,388 across 2021. In the lead-up to the 2021/22 TIO NTFL season, to celebrate TIO's 30th year of supporting Territory footy, AFLNT created digital retro footy cards and posted across social media channels using designs from 1991 – 30 years ago as part of the campaign. The initial response from the football community has been overwhelmingly positive.



AFLNT FINANCIAL REPORT

Year Ended 31 October 2021

The audited financial statements of AFL Northern Territory Limited, for the year ended 31 October 2021 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 \$9,679 for the year ended 31st October 2021, which has increased the retained profits to \$112,056.

Key financial results for the 2021 Financial Year included:

1. Overall revenues decreased by \$1.4m largely due to decreased grants (\$600k) and reduced commercial revenue (500k) due to no AFL game events and other major events in 2021 and a reduction in remote programs being run due to Covid.
2. The above downside was offset by savings in program, match day and events costs.
3. Employee expenses were slightly higher than 2020 (\$300k). This was due to staff returning to full time work during the financial year. There were 39 full time staff employed at the end of the financial year (prior year: 39)
4. There was a continued focus on renewing and retaining key government and corporate support for our Remote Programs.

Given the challenges once again faced across the AFL industry in 2021, this is a pleasing result and all staff of AFLNT should be congratulated.

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 2021.



Sean Bowden
Chairman – AFL Northern Territory

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021**

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue	4	8,460,604	9,848,569
Expenses from operating activities	5	(8,450,925)	(9,838,261)
Net Profit/(Loss) for the year		9,679	10,308
Other comprehensive income for the period		-	-
Total comprehensive loss for the year		9,679	10,308

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	13(a)	3,475	1,158,642
Trade and other receivables	6	1,832,732	1,134,260
Other assets		11,757	43,912
Total current assets		1,847,964	2,336,814
Property, plant and equipment	9	-	399,408
Total non-current assets		-	399,408
Total assets		1,847,964	2,736,222
Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	339,216	658,220
Lease Liability	11	-	176,489
Provisions	10	-	245,003
Deferred income		1,396,692	1,338,444
Total current liabilities		1,735,908	2,148,156
Lease Liability	11	-	74,411
Provisions	10	-	141,278
Total non-current liabilities		-	215,689
Total liabilities		1,735,908	2,633,845
Net assets		112,056	102,377
Equity			
Retained earnings	12	112,056	102,377
Total equity		112,056	102,377

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

PREMIER PARTNERS



CORPORATE PARTNERS



MEDIA



OFFICIAL SPONSORS



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**NORTHERN
TERRITORY**

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