



Great Club for 2008 – Launceston Football Club (Blues)

Football in Launceston has its origins dating back to the mid 1860s not many years after the official birth of the game in Melbourne in 1858. The formation of the Launceston FC occurred in 1875 making the Club the oldest in Tasmania's history.

The Club was a founding member of the Northern Tasmanian Football Association in 1886 and continued in that competition for a century. The Blues enjoyed early success in Tasmania and then dominated the State in the 1930s winning 5 State Premierships.

In the period when the NTFA expanded from 1948 the Launceston Club found it more difficult to achieve the same level of success. Highlights were still found when the Club moved to Riverside to Windsor Park and with great premiership triumphs in 1951, 1969, 1976 and 1985

With the arrival of a statewide league in Tasmania in the mid-1980s the Launceston Club was unable to gain a license but continued in the NTFL. In the early 1990s the Blues finally were accepted into the then declining Statewide League, but were unable to enjoy any success in 4 seasons. The return to the NTFL in 1998 saw a long period of development culminate with premierships in 2006 and 2007.

LAUNCESTON - ACHIEVEMENTS (BLUES)



Affiliated: NFA 1882-1885; NTFA 1886-1986; NTFL 1987-93; TFL Statewide 1994-97; NTFL 1998-present

Home Ground: Windsor Park, Riverside (from 1968)

Formed: 1875 (merged with Tamar Rowing Club in 1888 and Union Football Club in 1889)

Colours: Navy blue with white monogram

Emblem: Blues

Premierships:

NTFA - 1888-89, 1892-93-94, 1897, 1899, 1900, 1909, 1913, 1920, 1924, 1926, 1929, 1933-34-35-36-37-38, 1940, 1945, 1951, 1969, 1976, 1985.

NTFL - 2006-7.

Tasmanian State Premierships - 1933-34-35, 1937-38 (5 total).

Tasman Shield Trophy winners: Neil Edwards 1928; Jim Milbourne 1929; K.W. 'Bill' Cahill 1933 & 1936; Tom Ryan 1939; Lance Crosswell 1946-47; Darrell Crosswell 1951; R. 'Bob' Bye 1959-60.

Hec Smith Memorial Medallists: Alby Dunn 1968; Paul Ellis 1976; Grant Allford 1980; Darren Cook 1986 (4 total)

Baldock Medallists: Adam.Sanders 2003; Anthony.Taylor 2004; Brian.Finch 2005 (3 total).

All Australians: Graeme 'Gypsy' Lee 1966 (1 total)

NTFA Top Goalkickers: H.Murray (9) 1889; P.Tabart (9) 1892; R.Lawrence (11) 1893 & (12) 1894; J.Gorman (16) 1896; P.Bird (15) 1900; S.Willett (8) 1905; V.Valentine (12) 1906; A.Ramsay (6) & R.Thomas (6) 1911; B.Freeland (25) 1925; J.Foley (70) 1930 & (52) 1931; H.Ranson (62) 1933; A.Waddle (44) 1935; L.Smith (59) 1937 & (73) 1938; M.Flood (71) 1945; R.McCrimmon (102) 1948, (83) 1949, (76) 1950 & (55) 1951; C.Tabe (67) 1955; D.Seen (50) 1967; A.West (65) 1969 & (50) 1970; R.Smith (94) 1976 & (63) 1977; I.Donnachy (63) 1978 & (78) 1982 (30 total)

NTFL Top Goalkickers: A.Derbyshire (93) 2005 & (133) 2006 (2 total)

Launceston's Official 'Team of the Century':

Backs:	Leo McAuley	Trevor Ranson	Joe Cahill
Half Backs:	Gary Davis	Darrell Crosswell	'Paddy' Martin
Centres:	Roy Cooper	Jack Beveridge	Cliff Tabe
Half Forwards:	Graeme Lee	Ken Walker	Lance Crosswell
Forwards:	Phil Haughan	Ross McCrimmon	Noel Atkins
1st Ruck:	Graham Wise	Bob Withers	Alby Dunn
Interchange:	Grant Allford	Robert Dutton	Paul Ellis
	Murray Columbine	Ray Levett	

Highest Score: 46.18 (294) vs Deloraine on 19 May 1984

Most Games: 252 by Paul Ellis from 1973 to 1985

The history of Australian football in Tasmania dates back to the 1860s. In 1867 a committee was established in Launceston to oversee the Victorian code in that city, but initially at least it would seem that the sport was only played on a social basis.

The Launceston Football Club was formed in 1875, making it the oldest club in Tasmania and also the first in Tasmania, but it was not until 1882, and the establishment of the Northern Football Association, that organised football can genuinely be said to have commenced. This inaugural Association only lasted four years before being replaced in 1886 by the Northern Tasmanian Football Association (NTFA), which would endure until the inception of a Tasmanian statewide competition precisely a hundred years later.

Launceston was one of three senior clubs to participate in the NTFA in its initial year, but one of the other clubs, Longford, was involved in a dispute with the association that eventually led to its withdrawal from the competition in July. This left Launceston to compete - unsuccessfully as it transpired - with City for the inaugural NTFA flag; Launceston thus achieved the rare 'double' of a wooden spoon and a runners-up berth in the same year.

In 1887 the competition expanded to four clubs with the admission of South Launceston and Tamar Rowing Club, and the following year Launceston and Tamar Rowing Club combined forces, winning the first of two consecutive premierships.

The 1890s was a depressed period economically, and this inevitably had an inimical effect on football. By the middle of the decade the NTFA was in dire straits, and only two clubs - Launceston and Fitzroy - contested the 1896 season. In 1900 the Northern Tasmanian Cricket Association stepped in and undertook control of the competition, an arrangement which lasted until 1914.



Launceston provided a number of players for each of Tasmania's teams at the three pre-World War One Australian Football carnivals, and at Adelaide in 1911 it supplied two of the very best in the shape of Gordon Challis (shown left), who was awarded the Senator Keating Medal as Tasmania's outstanding player of the carnival, and A.D. ('Algy') Tynan, who was named at full back in an unofficial 'All Australian' side selected at the conclusion of championships.

Launceston was intermittently successful during the pre-war period, contesting eight grand finals between 1900 and 1914 for three flags. After winning the 1909 premiership, Launceston was involved in the first ever official play off to determine the Tasmanian state premiers, but lost to Cananore by 30 points in Hobart. Four years later it again qualified to meet Cananore in the state premiership decider but, dissatisfied with the umpire appointed to take charge of the game, refused to take the field. The state title was awarded to Cananore, and the TFL, as the official controlling body for football throughout the state of Tasmania, suspended Launceston. It was not until midway through the 1914 season that this disqualification was finally lifted, by which time Launceston's fellow NTFA clubs, City and North Launceston, had effectively also undergone

suspension (at least as far as the TFL was concerned) for agreeing to play against Launceston in roster matches. The entire affair left something of a bitter after taste, but by the time it was resolved events in Europe had begun to supplant mere sporting considerations in most people's minds.

During the early post-World War One phase the NTFA comprised three evenly matched clubs, Launceston, City and North Launceston, each of which secured two flags apiece between 1920 and 1925. In 1926 Longford re-entered the association after a forty year break but the other three clubs would continue to dominate for some time yet. Launceston won its thirteenth premiership that year and, in the state premiership play off against Cananore, was desperately unlucky to lose by 2 points after amassing 25 scoring shots to 17.

The Launceston teams of the 1930s were some of the finest ever to grace Tasmanian football ovals. With players like 'Bill' Cahill, Roy Cooper, Tom Ryan and Doug Wheeler to the fore, the side won six consecutive flags between 1933 and 1938. Only North Hobart in 1936 prevented what would have been an identical sequence of wins in the Tasmanian State premiership.

Success since the 1930s has proved considerably harder to achieve. The NTFA expanded to six clubs in 1948 with the admission of Cornwall (later East Launceston) and Scottsdale, and the balance of power tended to rest more heavily with the second of these newcomers, together with North Launceston and City/City-South, than it did with Tasmania's oldest club.

Launceston continued to provide a football home to a large number of accomplished players, such as the club's only official All Australian, Graeme 'Gypsy' Lee (pictured right), Alby Dunn, Paul Vinar, Grant Allford, Paul Ellis and Wim Vaessen.



In 1994 the Blues entered the TFL statewide competition but in four seasons in what was by that stage a declining concern failed to make much of an impression, finishing last without a win in their debut season, last again with just 1 win in 1995, before improving marginally in 1996 (7th out of 11 clubs) and 1997 (9th out of 11).

Since 1998 Launceston has participated in the NTFL. After a twenty-one year wait, the side finally broke through to record its twenty-seventh senior premiership victory in 2006 after impressively downing Devonport in the grand final. In front of a crowd of 5,192 at Latrobe, the final scoreboard showed Launceston 22.14 (146) defeated Devonport 13.11 (89).

A year later it was Ulverstone on the receiving end as the Blues claimed their first back to back premiership triumphs since the 1930s. Watched by a respectable crowd of almost 5,500 at Latrobe, Launceston had to battle hard for victory, with the Robins getting to within 4 points at one stage during the last term. However, the Blues were able to steady and pull away to record a 15 point triumph, 19.9 (123) to 16.12 (108).

Launceston enters the 2008 season as one of the strongest in the State and will be a genuine threat to lift the first State Premiership for nearly a decade when the two regional premiers from the NTFL and SFL play off in September.

Current spearhead Adam Derbyshire earlier this season broke the club goalkicking record of 445 goals previously held by Team of the Century full forward Ross McCrimmon (1947 – 1954).

Acknowledgement: Full Points Footy

Legendary Team for 2008 – Tasmania's 1958 Centenary National Carnival Team

The Tasmania team of 1958 was the most successful Tasmanian football team to compete in an Australian National Football Carnival and included some of the all time legendary footballers of Tasmania.

Tasmania came out of the National Carnival played in Melbourne to celebrate the centenary of football in a blaze of glory. Tasmania maintained 3rd spot following on from the 1956 Carnival achievements and toppled the might of West and South Australia for the first time at the same Carnival.

TASMANIA'S CENTENARY NATIONAL CARNIVAL TEAM - 1958



Back Row: Bill Williams (Hobart), Gary Quinn (North Hobart - did not attend).

Fourth Row: Trevor Leo (Hobart), Darrel Baldock (East Devonport), Arthur Hodgson (Ulverstone), Stuart Spencer (Clarence), Brian Eade (Glenorchy).

Third Row: Derek Parremore (Sandy Bay), Rex Garwood (New Norfolk), Roy Apted (North Launceston), Don Gale (Burnie), Brian Loring (Coote), Geoff Long (City-South).

Second Row: Terry Shadbolt (Burnie), George Mason (Devonport), Len Adams (Hobart), E. Smith (Trainer), Joe Murphy (Latrobe), Jeff Patterson (East Launceston), Neil Conlan (Glenorchy).

Front Row: John Fitzallen (Longford), Geoff Hill (New Norfolk), John Leedham (North Hobart), Keith Dickenson (Manager), Jim Ross (North Launceston), Colin Moore (Penguin), Roger Chapman (Sandy Bay).

Late Selections: Max Griffiths (Glenorchy), B. Pierce (Ulverstone), Don Fraser (East Launceston).

TASMANIA'S NATIONAL CARNIVAL CAMPAIGN – 1958

Tasmania began the Carnival poorly with something of an upset loss to the Victorian VFA. The Tasmanians could not match the VFA combination who at that time were nearly as strong as the VFL. In this game the VFA received tremendous drive from Bob Withers who was later to become one of the greatest players to ever cross to Tasmania when he became a coach of North Launceston. As well, John Coughlan and Kevin Symons also moved to Tasmania from the VFA and carved out great careers in their adopted homes.

<i>Tasmania v Victoria (VFA)</i>			Date: Wednesday 2 July	
Teams	1st	2nd	3rd	Final
Tasmania	3.2	5.5	9.14	13.16 (94)
VFA	5.4	6.7	11.9	15.12 (102)
Best: Tasmania	J.Ross, R.Garwood, D.Gale, G.Hill, C.Moore, J.Murphy, D.Baldock, W.Williams, J.Leedham.			
VFA	B.Withers, C.Love, J.Coughlan, B.Metcalf, K.White, P.Box, T.Devery			
Goals: Tasmania	J.Ross 4, S.Spencer 2, R.Garwood 2, D.Baldock 1, T.Leo 1, W.Williams 1, G.Long 1, C.Moore 1.			
VFA	J.Coughlan 4, P.Box 3, R.Bonnett 2, T.Devery 2, K.Symons 1, K.Ross 1, F.Bourke 1.			

Tasmania caused the first major shock of the Carnival when, under lights, it defeated the powerful Western Australia team, in a game that was full of excitement to the final bell. Tasmania conceded an early 3 goal advantage, but fought back and went on to be deserved winners.

<i>Tasmania v Western Australia</i>			Date: Saturday 5 July	
Teams	1st	2nd	3rd	Final
Tasmania	3.4	8.10	9.10	13.16 (94)
W.A	5.4	6.5	10.9	11.12 (78)
Best: Tasmania	S.Spencer, J.Ross, T.Leo, J.Leedham, N.Conlan, R.Garwood, R.Chapman, G Hill, M Griffiths, J Patterson.			
WA	Clarke, Farmer, White, Preen, Foley, Rogers, Harper.			
Goals: Tasmania	S.Spencer 4, M Giffiths 3, G Long 2, J Leedham 1, J Ross 1, T Shadbolt 1, N.Conlan 1.			
WA	White 3, Gerovich 2, Preen 2, Foley 2, Munne 1, Johnson 1.			

Tasmania defeated South Australia, for the second Carnival in succession, in another thriller.

<i>Tasmania v South Australia</i>			Date: Monday 7 July	
Teams	1st	2nd	3rd	<i>Final</i>
Tasmania	3.3	5.5	9.13	11.18 (84)
S.A	2.8	5.11	10.13	11.16 (82)
Best: Tasmania	G.Long, J.Ross, S.Spencer, J.Leedham, D.Gale, J.Patterson, J.Murphy, R.Garwood, G.Hill.			
SA	G.Motley, K.McGregor, D.Rattigan, A.Whelan, N.Hayes, K.Tierney, H.Bunton, R.Rogerson.			
Goals: Tasmania	J.Ross 3, J.Leedham 3, G.Long 3, B.Eade 1, R.Chapman 1.			
SA	D.Kerley 3, G.Williams 2, H.Bunton 2, D.Rattigan 2, R.Kitchen 1, G.Christie 1.			

Tasmania's last game was ruined by injury to numerous players before the first bounce. Stand in player Don 'Mopsy' Fraser could not avert a sound beating by the Victorian VFL team who went on to win the Carnival.

<i>Tasmania v Victoria (VFL)</i>			Date: Wednesday 9 July	
Teams	1st	2nd	3rd	Final
Tasmania	1.3	2.4	4.7	8.14 (62)
VFL	4.5	12.9	22.10	25.14 (164)
Best: Tasmania	S.Spencer, D.Gale, R.Garwood, T.Leo, N.Conlan, J.Fitzallen, J.Patterson, J.Murphy. R.Apted, J.Fitzallen.			
VFL	A.Aylett, B.Skilton, O.Abrahams, E.Whitten, J.Clarke, R.Davis, B.Edwards, J.Dugdale.			
Goals: Tasmania	R.Garwood 3, R.Apted 3, J.Ross 1, J.Leedham 1.			
VFL	J.Dugdale 8, O.Abrahams 5, A.Aylett 5, B.Skilton 2, E.Whitten 2, R.Davis 1, B.Edwards 1, R.Barassi 1.			

TASMANIA'S NATIONAL CARNIVAL CAMPAIGN – 1958

ALL AUSTRALIAN SELECTION – Jim Ross, Stuart Spencer, Don Gale.

CARNIVAL RECORD – Arthur Hodgson played in his fifth carnival. This record was a first for a Tasmanian and only one of three players to do so. Hodgson also played in the 1947, 1953 and 1956 Carnivals for Tasmania and the 1950 Carnival for Victoria while playing for Carlton.

LEFROY MEDALLIST – Tasmanian Best and Fairest at Carnival – Jim Ross

AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME – Darrel Baldock (Legend) and Stuart Spencer.

TASMANIAN FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME:

- **Icons** - *Darrel Baldock*
- **Legends** - *Arthur Hodgson, Geoff Long, John Leedham*
- **Inductees** - *Trevor Leo, Stuart Spencer, Brian Eade, Rex Garwood, Don Gale, Neil Conlan, John Fitzallen, Jim Ross, Colin Moore, Keith Dickenson (Manager)*

PLAYERS IN THE VFL (AFL).

- Arthur Hodgson - Carlton
- Darrel Baldock – St.Kilda
- Don Fraser - Richmond
- Geoff Hill - Fitzroy
- Jeff Patterson – South Melbourne, Richmond, Fitzroy
- Jim Ross – St.Kilda
- Joe Murphy – Fitzroy
- Roy Apted – St.Kilda
- Stuart Spencer - Melbourne

Memorable Game for 2008 - Tasmanian Statewide Grand Final 1988 – Devonport Blues v Glenorchy Magpies.

This TFL Statewide Grand Final is famous as the first instance where a team from the northern half of Tasmania was able to lift the premiership cup. More infamously the game was also a brutal affair early and arguably the last to see large melees and multiple player reports in the time before sending players off became possible under the laws of football.

The game entered the annals of Tasmanian football history after a massive build up of expectation in both the northern suburbs of Hobart and on the north-west coast at Devonport. A huge Statewide League Grand Final crowd of almost 18,000 paid more than \$100,000 to watch the game and see the Devonport Blues conclusively win the fights and the football.

TASMANIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE STATEWIDE GRAND FINAL 1988 DEVONPORT BLUES v GLENORCHY MAGPIES GAME RESULTS

Statewide Grand Final			Date:	
Teams	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	Final
	5.2	7.3	10.4	15.7 (97)
Devonport				
Glenorchy	1.2	4.2	7.2	8.6 (54)
Venue: North Hobart Oval			Umpire: T.Fellowes and G.Dawson	
Attendance: 17,878			Gate: \$100,000 +	
Best: Devonport	D.Code, R.Brown, D.Lee, D.Scott, C.Fagan, C.Dell, D.Martin, M.Baker			
Glenorchy	R.Groenewegan, M.Webster, M.Mansfield, M.Strickland, M.Queen, A.Fletcher			
Goals: Devonport	R.Brown 4, D.Lee 2, D.Scott 2, L.Perry 2, C.Reynolds, K.Wilson, D.Code, C.Fagan, W.Jaffray 1.			
Glenorchy	D.Mansfield 3, M.Styles 2, C.Smyth 2, A.Fletcher 1.			

TEAM LISTS

Teams:				
Devonport	B	G.Enniss	M.Baker	R.McCormack
	HB	P.Richards	D.Martin	D.Lee
	C	D.Cox	R.Brown	L.Perry
	HF	P.Nicholson	C.Dell	B.Jaffray
	F	K.Wilson	C.Reynolds	R.Gilham
	Ruck	D.Scott	D.Code	C.Fagan
	Res.	D.Gilham	A.Kelly	W.Jaffray
	Coach	Roland Crosby		D.Cullen
Glenorchy	B	D.White	M.Webster	R.Curley
	HB	M.Bowden	M.Queen	M.Strickland
	C	M.Styles	A.Fletcher	G.McCann
	HF	P.Barwick	C.Smyth	L.Lockley
	F	A.Howlett	D.Mansfield	G.Linton
	Ruck	R.Groenewegan	M.Mansfield	D.Ling
	Res.	W.Bromfield	T.Tovey	
	Coach	Robert Groenewegan		

TASMANIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE STATEWIDE GRAND FINAL 1988 DEVONPORT BLUES v GLENORCHY MAGPIES

UMPIRE CHARGES

- K.Wilson (Devonport) for striking runner F.Clarke (Glenorchy).
- D.Martin (Devonport) for striking Unknown player (Glenorchy).
- R.Gilham (Devonport) for striking A.Howlett (Glenorchy).
- D.Cullen (Devonport) for striking A.Fletcher (Glenorchy).
- D.Cullen (Devonport) for striking T.Tovey (Glenorchy).
- D.Mansfield (Glenorchy) for striking G.Enniss (Devonport).
- D.Mansfield (Glenorchy) for striking R.McCormack (Devonport).
- L.Lockley (Glenorchy) for striking C.Fagan (Devonport).
- L.Lockley (Glenorchy) for striking R.McCormack (Devonport).
- L.Lockley (Glenorchy) for unduly rough play towards C.Fagan (Devonport).

TRIBUNAL OUTCOMES

- D.Cullen – 5 Weeks
- K.Wilson – 3 Weeks
- D.Martin – 2 Week, suspended sentence
- D.Mansfield – 5 Weeks
- L.Lockley – 3 Weeks

DEVONPORT BLUES CELEBRATE

CUP OF JOY

Blues win fight – and flag!



YOUR BIG GRAND FINAL SOUVENIR – INSIDE

IT'S BLUES!



Devonport pride of north after bruising victory

The Devonport Blues yesterday cruised history by becoming the first northern team to win the TFL's Cascade Sevens Statewide League grand final.

The Blues dished the rocky Glenorchy side at least 10 minutes in the first half, winning the TFL's Cascade Sevens Statewide League grand final 15-7 (10-0 at half time).

The win capped off a brilliant year for Devonport, which saw the club lose just four games, seven and a half months before the final.

Captain Ricky Brown holds the 1988 premiership cup aloft.



Nicholson epitomises the hard work needed to win premierships

Victory came in the second half, following a scoreless first half. Devonport captain Phillip Nicholson led at the heart of the Blues machine.

The match was generally considered a toss-up, but Nicholson's hard work and leadership were the difference.

Nicholson's hard work and leadership were the difference.

**TASMANIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE STATEWIDE
GRAND FINAL 1988
DEVONPORT BLUES v GLENORCHY MAGPIES
*GAME DESCRIPTION and HEADLINES***

MERCURY HEADLINES

IT'S BLUES! Devonport pride of north after bruising victory.

CUP OF JOY. Blues win fight – and flag!

The Mercury reported: "Hail the Devonport Blues, the new heavyweight football champions of Tasmania".

Devonport showed it could slug it out and play football in defeating Glenorchy by 43 points while 6 players were reported on 15 charges along the way.

The nearly 18,000 people in attendance saw two big brawls break out before the game began and 7 minutes into the first quarter, before players settled into a more controlled aggression at the ball.

The game recalled memories of the grand final 2 years earlier when Sandy Bay were defeated by Glenorchy and a total of 9 players were reported.

Glenorchy Coach Robert Groenewegen was gracious in defeat, saying: "We lost the fight and we lost the football – Devonport was just too good and too committed for us...They had the better of us in the rough stuff and after that they settled a lot quicker than we did."

EXAMINER HEADLINES

BLUES BRING THE FLAG HOME.

The Examiner reported that perhaps the master stroke of the Grand Final was the act of the umpires in bouncing the ball before the siren sounded and in a desperate attempt to curtail the all in brawl that had broken out before the game started.

The report continued that both teams were at fever pitch and not willing to back down from physical confrontation. The whole game became a tough and uncompromising affair.

The key moves in the game were the placement of future draftee, Dion Scott, to centre half forward where he became an important target for the Blues and the blanketing role played by Phil Nicholson on Glenorchy's young Leitch Medallist, and also a future draftee, in Adrian Fletcher. Nicholson curtailed Fletcher to such an extent that he was moved to a flank and in any case his work released Devonport's own Leitch Medallist, David Code, for a best on ground effort in the pivot.

**TASMANIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE STATEWIDE
GRAND FINAL 1988
DEVONPORT BLUES v GLENORCHY MAGPIES**

MEMORABLE HIGHLIGHTS

Some of the highlights that make the 1988 Grand Final so memorable include:

DEVONPORT

- Having put together something of a 'foreign legion' of star players from across Victoria and Tasmania they were desperate to prove themselves having missed the finals the previous season.
- The Devonport team of 1988 were first or equal first on the ladder for the whole season and went through the finals series undefeated.
- The Premiership is the first by a team from the Northern half of the State in the new Statewide League.

GLENORCHY

- Glenorchy were playing in their 13th grand final in 14 seasons and looking to win their 5th and thus improve on their poor conversion rate in the big one.
- The new Glenorchy captain / coach Robert Groenewegen had completed his time in the VFL with Footscray and had a challenging initiation to Tasmanian football being reported 5 times in the season and missing 2 finals games through suspension also.

GAME

- Huge crowd of 17878 paid over \$100,000 to watch the game.
- Game commenced with a large melee before umpires could get play underway and ultimately the umpires start the game without the siren sounding.
- 6 players reported on 15 charges and subsequently 5 outed for a combined total of 18 weeks.

Special Category for 2008 – Longford 1957, New Norfolk 1968 and Smithton 1983 recognised as 'Best of Country'

AFL Tasmania announced a 'Special Category' of Tasmanian football for induction into the Tasmanian Football Hall of Fame in 2008.

To celebrate the Sesquicentenary of Australian Football, the 3 best country football teams that have played senior competition level football in Tasmania were recognised, including:

- Northern Tasmania – Longford Tigers – 1957 NTFA and State Premiership team.
- North West Tasmania – Smithton Saints – 1983 NWFU Premiership team.
- Southern Tasmania – New Norfolk Eagles – 1968 TFL and State Premiership team.

'BEST OF COUNTRY' – TASMANIAN SENIOR FOOTBALL

NORTHERN TASMANIA

The northern midlands town of Longford was transformed as a sporting haven for people from all over the world in the 1950s when the town became the centre of international motor racing. For Tasmania's maniac football followers the Longford Tigers were also to peak in the mid and late 1950s at both the regional and state level under the leadership of ex-Carlton premiership star – Fred Davies.

The Longford Tigers achieved their first taste of NTFA premiership success in 1955, but were to succumb in the State Premiership to the Arthur Hodgson led Ulverstone.

After defeating Launceston comfortably for the 1957 NTFA title the Tigers once again took on Ulverstone, but this time in the State Preliminary Final. After winning that battle the team of local champions were to confront the TFL premiers, North Hobart, who were led by one of Tasmania's greatest ever players in John Leedham.

In the State Premiership Final the Tigers burst out of the blocks and could have taken a stranglehold on the title except for inaccurate kicking. To their credit North Hobart hit back in the 2nd quarter and led at half – time. The Tigers were not to be denied a second time however and prevailed comfortably in the 2nd half to become the first NTFA 'country' team to take the state title.

The Longford Tigers golden era extended to one more premiership in 1958 and numerous more runner up appearances following this triumph. Although there is little argument that the mantle of best country team in Northern Tasmania was taken up by Scottsdale for 2 decades from 1964, the Longford team of 1957 will always be remembered as the pioneers of the cause of country football in the region.

TASMANIAN STATE PREMIERSHIP – 1957 – York Park					
<i>Longford v North Hobart</i>				Date: Saturday 5 October	
Teams	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	Final	
Longford	3.8	5.11	10.13	14.16 (100)	
North Hobart	0.1	7.4	10.5	12.7 (79)	
Best: Longford	R.Hay, J.Fitzallen, J.Barnes, F.Davies, C.Goninon, R.Butterworth, D.Brooks, P.Jago, I.Hayes.				
North Hobart	J.Archer, J.Leedham, P.Cooper, G.Quinn, I.Riley, B.Southorn, D.Eaton, N.Clarke.				
Goals: Longford	D.Goninon 3, E.Bricknell 3, F.Davies 3, J.Barnes 2, L.Pitt 2, C.Goninon 1.				
North Hobart	N.Clarke 3, P.Cooper 3, I.Riley 2, J.Leedham 1, M.Kelleher 1, C.Collidge 1, I.Plunkett 1.				
<i>Umpire</i>	F.Schwab	<i>Crowd</i>	12500 (record)	<i>Gate</i>	£2234 (record)

SOUTHERN TASMANIA

New Norfolk entered the TFL grand final as a rank outsider in many pundits eyes. They were up against the John Devine led North Hobart, who were hot favourites, having won the 2nd semi final easily and given they were reigning premiers.

The Trevor Leo led Eagles were however on a mission to achieve what no other Derwent Valley team had ever done – to win the TFL premiership and then the State Premiership.

After winning the Club's first TFL premiership, the task to defeat Scottsdale to win the State Premiership title was taken in the stride of the Eagles. In a dour struggle the New Norfolk team were able to rally in the last quarter and draw away from a gallant Scottsdale team to achieve the greatest moment of any country senior football team in the history of football in Southern Tasmania.

The New Norfolk team of 1968 is the original and 'Best of Country' from Southern Tasmania.

TASMANIAN STATE PREMIERSHIP – 1968 – North Hobart Oval					
<i>New Norfolk v Scottsdale</i>			Date: 5 October		
Teams	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	Final	
New Norfolk	1.4	3.10	5.11	9.13 (67)	
Scottsdale	1.0	3.4	6.9	7.12 (54)	
Best: New Norfolk	R.Lynch, G.Hill, A.Besier, J.Windsor, G.Smith				
Scottsdale	Taylor, Mounter, Rattray, Leitch, Davidson, Millwood				
Goals: New Norfolk	G.Hill 4, B.Nusteling 2, T.Leo 1, C.Goggin 1, M.Booth 1.				
Scottsdale	Mounter 1, Taylor 1, R.Hall 1, Salter 1, Dent 1, French 1, Millwood 1.				
<i>Umpire</i>	D.Blew	<i>Crowd</i>	11,395	<i>Gate</i>	\$6,618

NORTH-WEST TASMANIA

The Smithton Saints were invited to enter the highly competitive North West Football Union (NWFU) in 1979. Their first taste of senior Tasmanian football was in the experimental Winfield Statewide League of early 1980. The initial outings for the Saints were not successful, but as the original season unfolded it became apparent that the decision in asking Smithton to join the NWFU was the right one.

By their 3rd season the Smithton combination was playing in the NWFU grand final and by 1983 (their 4th season) the Club was on the verge of achieving their first premiership.

In a magnificent game of football the Saints were paired against the might of the Cooee Bulldogs from Burnie. The Bulldogs were led off field by the Coastal coaching legend in Warren 'Putt' McCarthy and started the game strongly. The Saints were essentially a team of farmers and had the colossus from Richmond, Stephen Parsons, as their leader. After trailing Cooee in the first half the Saints faithful had to wait to a magnificent 3rd term to see their team reproduce the sort of form that had brought them this far.

In a classic last quarter the near record crowd were treated to a great contest to determine the champion team of 1983. With two minutes to go the chances of the Saints looked gone. They trailed by 11 points and were kicking into the wind. However, prevail they did and in a magnificent effort the winning goal was kicked with less than a minute to play and by the barest of margins the Saints 'came marching in' to the delight of their many thousands of supporters.

The NWFU Grand Final of 1983 was a classic of the ages for Tasmanian football. The achievement of the Smithton Saints in taking their first premiership in only their fourth season of senior competition football duly sees them recognised as the 'Best of Country' from the North-west Coast.

NWFU Grand Final – 1983 – West Park						
<i>Smithton v Cooee</i>				Date: 10 September		
Teams	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	Final		
Smithton	3.3	9.5	16.12	20.17 (137)		
Cooee	6.3	12.6	16.7	21.10 (136)		
Best: Smithton	A.Maguire, G.Coombe, P.Korpershoek, C.Hofing, S.Parsons, C.Loring, M.Nicholls					
Cooee	T.Lee, S.Beaumont, Bourn, J.Mihocek, R.Hislop, K.Beaumont, M.Deverall					
Goals: Smithton	A.Maguire 10, B.Newman 2, P.Korpershoek 2, K.Billing 2, C.Loring 2, B.French 1, G.Coombe 1.					
Cooee	S.Beaumont 7, K.Beaumont 5, B.Plant 3, D.Shephard 2, K.Beswick 2, M.Dockling 1, M.Templeton 1.					
<i>Umpire</i>	M.Devlin & R.Hart		<i>Crowd</i>	11,722	<i>Gate</i>	\$28,573

INDUCTEES CITATIONS – 2008

Colin Campbell (189)

Player Inductee

Launceston / Essendon, Rover, 1889-99

- 12 games, 4 goals, Essendon, 1897-99.
- Premierships – Essendon – 1897 (VFL).
- Premierships – Essendon – 1891 and 1894 (VFA).
- Represented Victoria in 1893.

Dr Colin Campbell was one of the early Tasmanian stars to make their mark in Victoria. Playing for Essendon through the 1890s he was a multiple premiership player and a great rover of his era. Considered to be fast and a long-kick, he came out of retirement to play in the first season of the VFL and was rewarded with a further Premiership.

Keith Roberts (190)

Player Inductee

Wynyard / Yeoman / New Town / City, 1923 – 35

- TFL Best & Fairest Awar (Inaugural Wilson Bailey Medal), 1927.
 - Represented Tasmania at 2 National Carnivals – 1927 (Melbourne) and 1930 (Adelaide)
 - Captained a TFL team in NSW in 1929.
 - Multiple TFL and NWFU intrastate games.
 - Represented NWFU team to defeat TFL in 1924
 - Played for Wynyard / Yeoman in NWFU.
 - Played for New Town – 1925 to 1933.
 - Played for City – 1934 & 1935.
 - Coach – City - 1935
-

Col Stokes (191)

Player Inductee

Longford, Full Forward, 1925-38

- 175 games Longford, 1925 – 1938.
- Represented the NTFA.
- Leading Goalkicker – Longford and NTFA – 1926 (52 goals), 1928 (78 goals), 1929 (74 goals).
- Longford Best & Fairest, 1933.

A great NTFA full forward during the between the wars era. Served Longford and the NTFA for more than a decade, but did not have an opportunity to represent the State in the 1930s. Was a prolific goalkicker for the newly formed Longford Tigers and more than held his own against all comers.

Lance Crosswell (192)

Player Inductee

Launceston / Longford, Centreman, 1945-54

- Launceston Best & Fairest, 1946-47
- NTFA Best & Fairest (Tasman Shields Trophy), 1946-47.
- Represented Tasmania at 1947 National Carnival in Hobart.
- Represented NTFA from 1945-48.
- Launceston premiership, 1945.
- Member of the Launceston Team of the Century.

An extremely fast and clever centreman who could not commence his senior career until his 24th year because of World War Two. Had one season with Longford after leaving Launceston at the end of 1953. He also played and coached Campbell Town, winning the club and league best & fairest in 1955.

Les Hepper (193)**Administrator Inductee**

New Norfolk / TFL, Administrator, 1957 - 74

- Les Hepper helped lead the New Norfolk Football Club through its most successful era in the 1960s and early 1970s.
- The highlight of his leadership was the 1968 season when under Trevor Leo the Club won the TFL and State Premiership for the first time.
- Les Hepper was also active in designing and developing the new Clubrooms at Boyer during his time as President.
- The grandstand at Boyer oval was named the Les Hepper Stand in honour of his service to the Club.
- The development of Tasmanian football icon Peter Hudson also occurred at New Norfolk in the 1960s and his highly successful 1966 National Carnival in Hobart and subsequent recruitment to Hawthorn FC in 1967 highlighted his progression from junior football at New Norfolk to Tasmanian and Australian football legend.
- A life member of the New Norfolk Football Club and the Tasmanian Football League.

Les Hepper's contribution to the New Norfolk and broader Derwent Valley was significant across a range of community endeavours. His leadership in football in the district was profound.

Harold 'Tiger' Dowling (194)**Overall Contribution Inductee**

East Devonport / Cooe / Wynyard / The Advocate, Defender / Coach / Media, 1955 - 1995

- 271 games comprising 263 club and 8 intrastate, Cooe, 1959-73.
- 3 games, East Devonport, 1955.
- Cooe Best & Fairest, 1970
- Cooe Captain, 1967, 1968, 1969
- Cooe Premierships (playing) - 1961, 1964, 1965, 1973
- Cooe Playing Coach, 1971-72.
- Wynyard Coach, 1974-76 and Premiership, 1975.
- Coached NWFU Representative team, 1975-76

Began Career at East Devonport 1955(3 games- 1st game same day as Darrel Baldock). An outstanding schoolboy sportsman, excelling in football, cricket and cycling. Retired from senior football from 1956-1958 to concentrate on pro cycling becoming Australian Scratchman. Dowling was a Foundation member of NWFU 200 Club. Played in five grand finals for Cooe for four premierships and was non-playing coach of Wynyard's 1975 premiership team. Continued his commitment to football through years of media commitments as Advocate Feature Writer, Radio and TV commentator.

Charlie Thompson (195)**Player Inductee**

North Launceston, Wingman / Rover, 1956 to 1973

- 294 games, North Launceston, 1956-73.
- 20 games, NTFA, 1959-70.
- Represented Tasmania in 1964.
- NTFA Best & Fairest (Tasman Shields Trophy), 1964.
- North Launceston Best & Fairest, 1964.
- North Launceston Premierships – 1961 and 1963.
- Tasmanian Best Player Award (Lefroy Medal), 1964.
- Named as second rover in North Launceston's 'Best Team – 1945 to 1999'.

A great wingman / rover from North Launceston who was a multiple NTFA and State representative. Held in the highest regard at North Launceston and a noted big game performer.

Kevin Bailey (196)**Media Inductee**

The Mercury, Cartoonist, 1970s-90s

- Legendary Football Cartoonist with the Mercury newspaper.
 - Significant cartoon features of all TFL Grand Finals in the 70s, 80s, 90s.
 - Played TFL senior football with Hobart in the 1960s.
-

Ron Hall (197)**Player Inductee**

Scottsdale, Midfielder, 1963 to 1978

- 245 senior games for Scottsdale.
- Scottsdale Premierships – 1964, 65, 68, 70, 71, 73.
- Scottsdale State Premiership – 1973.
- Represented Tasmania on 5 occasions.
- Represented NTFA between 1963 and 1972.
- Scottsdale Coach – 1978.
- Scottsdale Life Member.

One of the great on-ballers of Scottsdale's golden era. Hard running and hard at the ball.

Kevin Williams (198)**Umpire Inductee**

NTFUA, Field Umpire, 1965 - 1990

- More than 300 senior games.
 - 10 senior regional grand finals from 1970 to 1984.
 - 1 state grand final, Latrobe v Clarence in 1970.
 - 5 Tasmanian representative games.
-

John Bonney (199)**Player Inductee**

Cooee / St Kilda / Burnie Centre / Rover / Half-forward, 1962-79

- 87 games, 79 goals, St Kilda, 1967-69. 1971-73 & 1976.
- Member of St Kilda's losing grand final team of 1971.
- Played 90+ games with Cooee, 1962-66 and 1978-79.
- Cooee Best & Fairest, 1964, 65 & 1966
- Represented Tasmania 8 times, including the 1966 Australian Carnival.
- Represented Victoria against West Australia, 1971.
- Captain/Coach Burnie, 1974-75, including 1974 NWFU premiership.
- Captain/Coach Cooee, 1978 to NWFU and State premiership.
- Tasmanian Best Player Award (Lefroy Medal), 1965.

In 1978 he became the first person to coach two NWFU clubs to premierships after leading Burnie in 1974 and Cooee in 1978. A tough rover/half forward, who suffered a severe injury as a teenager and was told he would never play football again. Overcame the odds to carve out a tremendous playing and coaching career in Tasmania and Victoria.

Graeme Shephard (200)**Player Inductee**

Cooee / Collingwood, Rover, 1968 to 1982

- 46 games, 18 goals, Collingwood, 1970 & 1974-75.
- Cooee premierships, 1973 & 1978.
- NWFU Best & Fairest Award (Wander Medal), 1973.
- Cooee Coach, 1977.
- Cooee Best & Fairest, 1969 & 1973
- Credited with more than 200 senior games.
- Tasmanian representative in 2 National Carnivals, 1969 and 1972.

Explosive rover-cum-centreman who was instrumental player in Cooee's successes in the 1970s. Was a regular NWFU and Tasmanian representative.

Graeme Mackey (201)**Player Inductee**

Sandy Bay, Midfielder, 1968 to 1985

- Sandy Bay - 269 games from 1968 to 1981
- Sandy Bay Captain 1975.
- Sandy Bay Captain/Coach 1979-1981.
- Sandy Bay Premierships, 1971, 72, 76, 77, 78.
- Sandy Bay Best & Fairest 1971, 74, 77.
- Represented TFL and Tasmania on 13 occasions.
- Sandy Bay / Past Players committee member – 1982-85 and 1993 to 2000.
- Named in Sandy Bay's list of 25 greats – 1945 to 1996.

Tim Evans (202)**Player Inductee**

Penguin / Geelong / Port Adelaide, Half-back / Full Forward, 1970 to 1986

- Penguin, 1969-70.
- 59 games, 26 goals, Geelong, 1971-74.
- 248 games, 1041 goals – Port Adelaide – 1975-86.
- SANFL leading goalkicker on 6 occasions.
- Port Adelaide leading goalkicker on 10 occasions.

Began as a strong marking center half back who could also be used up forward when needed with Penguin and then Geelong. After the VFL, Evans played with Port Adelaide in the SANFL. He was transformed in to a full-forward and became an archetypal 'goal machine'. He won the South Australian leagues goalkicking award 6 times and became one of Port Adelaide's greatest ever goalkickers.

Ray James (203)**Media Inductee**

7HO / TNT9 / Southern Cross, Sports Reporter./Editor, 1965 - 1992

- A great stalwart of television sport in Northern Tasmania after starting in radio in Hobart.
- Covered all the local and national football events of the 1970 to early 1990s.
- Brought together a host of local identities, supported by national football heroes, to bring regional and statewide football into every lounge room.
- Traditional post NTFA Grand Final broadcasts became legendary.
- Strong focus on junior sport in the region helped promote football and all other sports to juniors and youth.

Neil Maynard (204)**Player Inductee**

North Launceston, Defender, 1970 - 1986

- 323 senior games, North Launceston – the Club record.
- North Launceston Premierships, 1975, 78, 79, 80, 81, 83.
- North Launceston Best and Fairest, 1978.
- Represented NTFA on 18 occasions.
- Represented Tasmania in 1976 and 1977.
- Named in North Launceston's 'Best Team of 1945-1999.'

The greatest full-back in North Launceston's long history.

Robbie Dykes (205)**Player Inductee**

Glenorchy / New Norfolk, Half Back Flank / Coach, 1970-86

- Played in 12 consecutive grand finals for four premierships.
- Glenorchy Premierships, 1975, 85 & 86.
- Glenorchy Best & Fairest, 1985.
- New Norfolk Premiership, 1982.
- TFL Best Player Award (Weller Arnold Medal), 1978.
- TFL Best & Fairest Award (William Leitch Medal), 1981.
- Represented Tasmania on 20 occasions and multiple TFL representative.
- Named at Half Back in Glenorchy's Team of the Century.
- Named in New Norfolk's Best Team 1947-2001.

A genuine tough defender. Played in an incredible 12 consecutive TFL grand finals for a return of four premierships. Played in a classic era of TFL football and rubbed shoulders with some of the best players in the State.

Don McLeod (206)**Player Inductee**

North Hobart, Centre Half Forward / On-baller, 1972-86

- Played 265 games with North Hobart
- Represented Tasmania 18 times
- Captained North Hobart, 1976 & 1979-83
- North Hobart premiership, 1974
- North Hobart Best & Fairest, 1976, 1979, 1981, 1982 & 1984.

Named in North Hobart's team of the century, announced 2000. Affectionately known as "Doc". As a player he had a great leap, big left foot kick, was a sure mark and was totally fearless. Holds the club record of games at North Hobart and won five club best & fairests.

Stephen Goulding (207)**Player Inductee**

North Launceston / Claremont / North Melbourne, Midfielder / Coach, 1979-95

- Coached North Launceston, 1988-92.
- North Launceston Best & Fairest, 1989-90
- North Launceston Premiership, 1979.
- Coached Deloraine, 1994-95
- 2 games, 2 goals, North Melbourne, 1981
- 133 games, Claremont, 1982 – 1988.
- Represented West Australia on 2 occasions.

A brilliant midfield general who was a tremendous leader with the North Launceston club in the halcyon years of Tasmanian Statewide football. Was the first coach to get Deloraine into the NTFL finals in 1994. Was named as coach of Deloraine's "Best of the Best" team named in 2002.

Darren Trevena (208)**Player Inductee**

City-South / South Launceston / South Adelaide / North Launceston / North Hobart / Tasmanian Devils, Midfielder / Coach, 1986-2007

- Played over 330 games.
- South Launceston Best & Fairest, 1996.
- North Launceston Best & Fairest, 1999.
- TFL Best & Fairest (William Leitch Medal), 1999.
- Tasmanian representative 4 times between 1986 and 1999.
- Captain – South Adelaide.
- South Adelaide Best & Fairest, 1995.
- SANFL representative.
- Coached North Hobart, 2000, winning Tasmanian Coach of the Year.
- U18 Coach – Northern Territory, winning National Division 2 Title.
- Head Coach - South Australia Football Academy – 2003 to 2006.
- Development Coach – Port Adelaide FC – 2007-08.

A much traveled player and coach who was an exceptional state level midfielder and notoriously fair. Represented Tasmania and South Australia. Recently head coach of the South Australian Football Academy and now with Port Adelaide Power in similar role.

Andy Lovell (209)**Player Inductee**

Glenorchy / Melbourne / West Coast / Sandringham, Ruck Rover / Half Back / Coach, 1986-2007

- 121 games, 146 goals, Melbourne, 1988-95.
- 43 games, 20 goals, West Coast, 1996-98.
- Played in Melbourne's losing grand final team of 1988.
- Glenorchy premierships, 1985-86.

Known as "Andy" or "Chopper". Lovell's father was a world champion wood-chopper in Tasmania. A hard working mid-fielder who was unexpectedly traded to West Coast. Runner-up in Melbourne's Best & Fairest, 1992. Currently enjoying coaching at AFL and VFL level with Sandringham.

Mark Williams (210)**Umpire Inductee**

NTFUA, Field Umpire / Umpire Coach, 1986 to 2007.

- 5 TFL Senior Grand Finals in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999.
 - 5 State Representative Matches for Tasmania against Queensland, Victoria (x2), West Australia and South Australia.
 - 3 years as Northern Tasmanian Football Umpires Coach.
 - 2 NTFL Senior Grand Finals 2006 and 2007.
 - Named as a Legend of the NTFUA.
 - Umpired in 7 of the 8 States/Territories in Australia representing Tasmania.
 - Umpired more than 400 games.
-

Nathan Howard (211)**Player Inductee**

Ulverstone / North Launceston / Launceston / Tasmanian Devils, Ruck Rover / Centreman, 1989-2005

- More than 200 games, Ulverstone (NTFL), 1989-97 & 2005-2006
- 12 games, Devonport, 1993
- 57 games, North Launceston, 1998-2000
- 4 games, Launceston, 2003
- 60 games, Tasmania or Tasmanian Devils, 1998 – 2004.
- Premierships: Ulverstone - 1990, 94, 95, 96 & 97; North Launceston - 1998.
- Best & Fairests: Ulverstone - 1992, 95, 96; North Launceston - 1998.
- NTFL Best & Fairest (Baldock Medal), 1996 and 1997.
- TFL Best & Fairest (William Leitch Medal), 2000.
- Lefroy Medal (Best player in Tasmanian State team) – 2000.

Nathan Howard has had a fantastic Tasmanian career that has included premierships at Ulverstone (NTFL) and North Launceston (TFL). The inaugural captain of the Tasmanian Devils team in the VFL in 2001. Howard has won four club best & fairest medals, three league best & fairests and a Tasmanian state best player medallion. One of the most decorated players Tasmanian has ever seen.

Ben Atkin (212)**Player Inductee**

Glenorchy / Tasmanian Devils, Midfielder, 1993-2006

- More than 200 senior games for Glenorchy and the Tasmanian Devils.
- Premiership – Glenorchy – 1999.
- Glenorchy Best & Fairest, 1998, 1999 & 2000.
- TFL Statewide Best & Fairest (William Leitch Medal), 1999.
- Tasmania FC Best & Fairest (Alastair Lynch Medal), 2002.
- Tasmania representative – 1997 – 2006.

Courageous wingman / midfielder noted for his endurance and spectacular marking. After trying out at North Melbourne returned to Tasmania to become a pivotal player in first Glenorchy's rise to the 1999 Statewide Premiership and the emergence of the Tasmanian Devils in the VFL.

LEGENDS – 2008

Jim Ross
St.Kilda / North Launceston
Centre Half Forward / Ruckman
1946-61

Jim Ross was a truly classy forward who was recruited from Ringwood (Victoria) and became an outstanding player in an St Kilda era in which the club had few genuine stars. This is demonstrated by the fact that Jim Ross won more St Kilda Best and Fairest awards than any player until the arrival of dual Brownlow Medallist, Robert Harvey, in the late 1990s.

Ross' contribution up forward was matched by his intelligent work in the ruck. The significance of his play led to his achievement in being selected to play for Victoria on 4 occasions.

When recruited to Tasmania by North Launceston he was only 27 years old and had many good games ahead of him. In his first season he suffered a debilitating back injury and this restricted his progress. However, following his recovery he arguably reached some of his greatest heights in football. In 1956 and 1958 he won the NTFA best and fairest award and also the 1956 NTFA coaches award for service to the game. At a personal level his high standard of play was rewarded by All – Australian selection following Tasmania's highly successful 1958 National Carnival.

However, there is little doubt that his ability and leadership was instrumental in Tasmanian football achieving it's highest team standards by regularly defeating Victoria, South Australia and West Australia in representative football in the period 1956 to 1960, when he represented the State on 11 occasions.

Following a long and illustrious career Jim Ross played his last game in the 1961 NTFA grand final win by the Bob Withers led North Launceston. A 1 point triumph by the Robins over the more favoured Longford was a thrilling and fitting end to a great playing and coaching career.

Following his retirement from playing Jim Ross firmly established himself as a football commentator in the media and community in Tasmania.

- 139 games, 171 goals, St Kilda, 1946-54
- St Kilda Best & Fairest - 1949, 51 & 52.
- Won St Kilda's goalkicking in 1954 (34 goals)
- Represented Victoria 4 times.
- Represented Tasmania 11 times.
- All-Australian, 1958.
- Lefroy Medal – 1958 - best Tasmanian player at National Carnival.
- NTFA Best & Fairest (Tasman Shields Trophy) - 1956 and 1958.
- Best player in NTFA games (A.W.Orchard Trophy) – 1957 and 1958.
- NTFA Coaches Award (Milbourne Trophy) – 1956.
- Coached North Launceston, 1955-57
- Played 109 games with North Launceston, including 1961 premiership triumph over Longford.

Rex Garwood
New Town / New Norfolk
Forward / Ruck Rover
1950-60

A champion Australian Rules footballer who debuted with New Town in 1950 playing under the legendary Roy Cazaly. During 1951, his first season in the seniors, he won his first TFL Best and Fairest Award, a truly remarkable performance considering he had only graduated from the underage ranks a year earlier.

That same year, 1951, saw Rex Garwood selected to represent Tasmania for the first time against the VFA and subsequently his first National Carnival in Adelaide in 1953.

The 1953 season saw Garwood appointed vice captain of New Town and after coach Jack Rough and captain Doug Scott were injured all the players rallied around their deputy skipper to take out the TFL flag and the State premiership. It was a tremendous achievement considering the average age of the team was only 21 years.

In 1955 he captained Tasmania to wins against New South Wales and Canberra and was again a dominating player at the 1956 National Carnival in Perth. As Tasmanian captain/coach Rex Garwood collected 3 votes in the Tassie medal for best on ground after dominating completely with 30 kicks, 13 marks and 7 goals and 3 behinds. The state finished third out of 5 competing states. Garwood's seven goals against the VFA at Perth was the highest individual tally of the 1956 carnival.

Ultimately, Garwood would play for Tasmania from 1951 to 1959, captain coaching in 1955, 1956 and 1957.

After taking up the coaching reins at New Norfolk for the 1954 season, Rex Garwood won his second William Leitch in 1955 and followed up with another in 1958. The Eagles, under his onfield guidance, enjoyed its best year ever finishing the roster series on top of the ladder but it lost both finals matches.

After an illustrious football career Rex Garwood retired at the end of the 1960 season. As a champion Australian Rules footballer, cricketer and lawn bowler Rex Garwood was undoubtedly one of the great allround sportsmen of Tasmania. He was duly recognised with as an inaugural inductee in the Tasmanian Sporting Hall of Fame in 1987.

- William Leitch Medal, 1951, 1955 and 1958.
- TFL best player award (Wander Medal) – 1951.
- Represented Tasmania 19 times between 1951-59.
- Played in the Australian Carnivals of 1953, 1956 and 1958.
- Captained and coached Tasmania 1955 to 1957.
- Premierships – New Town – 1951 and 1953.
- Coached New Norfolk, 1954-57.
- Named as Ruck-rover in Glenorchy's Team of the Century.
- Named as Half-forward in New Norfolk team of 1947-2001.
- Named as Interchange in Tasmania's Team of the Century.

Neil Conlan
New Town / Glenorchy / Devonport / Manuka
Midfielder
1953-74

One of the truly great players of Tasmanian football, having starred for both Glenorchy (nee New Town) and Devonport for many years, he then went on to successfully coach in the ACT for many years.

At the age of 17 Neil Conlan became the youngest player to represent Tasmania. Arguably one of the toughest players the state has produced he won the New Town / Glenorchy Best and Fairest for four consecutive seasons from 1955 to 1958.

As well as representing Tasmania a record 26 times between 1953-65 he also played in four Australian Carnivals - 1953, 56, 58 & 61.

He began his coaching career in Tasmanian and coached Devonport to the 1962 NWFU grand final only to be beaten by Burnie.

Conlan was revered in Tasmania and chased by many VFL clubs.

He settled on a move to the ACT and successfully coached Manuka to 6 premierships in 8 seasons to add to the 4 he enjoyed at New Town / Glenorchy as a player.

The father of former Fitzroy champion Michael Conlan. Neil Conlan died prematurely at age 42 in Canberra.

Former Sporting Editor of The Advocate Allan Leeson described Conlan thus "The meanest, toughest footballer Tasmania ever produced and one of the best – that was Neil Conlan."

- Represented Tasmania a record 26 times between 1953-65, playing in four National Carnivals - 1953, 1956, 1958 and 1961.
- Represented TFL 18 times and NWFU 15 times.
- Played 104 games with New Town / Glenorchy.
- Glenorchy captain, 1957-58.
- New Town / Glenorchy premierships, 1953, 1955, 1956 and 1958.
- Glenorchy Best and Fairest 1955, 1956, 1957 & 1958.
- Coached Devonport 1959-63.
- Played 103 games with Devonport.
- NWFU Best Intrastate Player Award (Alstergren Trophy) – 1962.
- Coached Manuka (ACT) from 1967-74 for 7 grand finals and 6 premierships.
- Named in center of Glenorchy's Team of the Century.
- Named on the Interchange in Tasmania's Team of the Century.

ICON – 2008

Arthur Hodgson

Queenstown / Carlton / Ulverstone

The legendary 'Black Prince' of Tasmanian football was born on 8 January 1926 in NSW. He moved to Queenstown in Tasmania, at age nine and after taking up Australian football his rise in senior football became inevitable following the end of the Second World War.

After dominating football on the West Coast for 2 seasons Hodgson was selected to represent Tasmania in the 1947 National Carnival, following a best on ground performance against the Tasmanian Football League in an intrastate game. His selection for Tasmania made him the first Queenstown Football Association player since 1904 to be so honoured.

Hodgson was recruited to play with Carlton following the National Carnival and so began a five year period in the limelight of the best competition in the land. He did not disappoint winning a Club Best and Fairest, representing the Blues in a grand final and being selected to play for Victoria for the 1950 National Carnival.

Returning home in 1953 Hodgson took over as coach of Ulverstone whom he steered to four NWFU premierships in seven seasons in charge, as well as the 1955 state flag, which was the first by a club from north-west Tasmania. His prowess as a player had not diminished either and he represented Tasmania in 11 more interstate matches, including involvement in the 1953, 1956 and 1958 carnivals. Hodgson's record of five interstate carnival appearances was only matched by two other players.

In June 2004, Arthur Hodgson was selected as a wingman in the official Tasmanian 'Team of the Century' and then in 2005 was an inaugural inductee in the Tasmanian Football Hall of Fame. He was elevated to 'Legend' in the Hall of Fame in 2006.

- 76 games, 7 goals, Carlton, 1948-52, including 1949 grand final.
- Played in five Australian Carnivals, 1950 for Victoria and 1947, 1953, 1956 and 1958 for Tasmania.
- Represented Tasmania 17 times and Victoria 4 times.
- Vice-Captain, Tasmania, 1953.
- Coached Ulverstone, 1953 to 1959.
- Premierships, Ulverstone, 1953, 1955, 1956 and 1957.
- Carlton best and fairest, 1950.
- Ulverstone best and fairest, 1960.
- North-West Football Union (NWFU) Best and Fairest - Wander Medal – 1955.
- NWFU Best Intrastate player award - Alstergren Trophy - 1954 & 1955.
- Estimated to have a total of 327 senior games.
- Named Sporting Life All Australian in 1950 and 1951.