



## Off-Field

Once again, the club made a profit this year - \$10,000 - which means the club has made a profit every year in the four years since it returned to play as North Hobart.

Making a profit this year is particularly noteworthy as our funding was drastically reduced by the AFL due to COVID to just \$65,000. Our licence agreement stipulates that we receive around \$115,000 a year.

The outcome is a great tribute to the hard work of so many in the North Hobart family and the great unity of purpose that exists to see the club prosper.

The club also has no debt (we inherited over 100k of debt in October 2017 when the club became North Hobart again) and we have money in the bank.

Our new facilities are generating great income. The club has added \$2.35 million in infrastructure at the Home of Footy over the last decade including \$2 million over the past three years.

The lift into the Plaister stand and refurbishment of the function room is underway and will hopefully be completed by the end of March 2022, before Round 1.



This makes the Plaister stand an even more attractive place to watch footy, have meetings or conferences and will be another important revenue stream for the club.

We currently have 500 plus members. However, we plan to grow that to 700 by the end of next season and want to hit 1000 in the next two years.

We have great partners and sponsors, and we are very grateful for the enormous support that we receive from all our partners.

The club is fortunate to have great people in all positions throughout the club doing great things; you are all making an important contribution to the goals of our strategic plan.

That includes all our magnificent volunteers and the great support we receive from our coterie group The Tridents.



## On-Field

On field growth was very evident in all our teams, with the players and coaches to be congratulated.

### Women's Program

Our women's team competed in Division 1 for the first time. It was a bold move by the club and one that paid off enormously.

The team made the finals in our first year winning five games in the 12-game season and lost the first semi-final to the hugely experienced Claremont team by just a point.

Despite the heartbreak of losing the semi-final by the narrowest margin it was a year that gave rise to great optimism for the future.

And with so many talented players coming through the North Hobart and Sandy Bay junior football clubs the future is very bright.

This year we saw the first two Sandy Bay Juniors in Laura Cooper and Anna Edwards play senior footy for the club which was brilliant and a sign of things to come.

Next year the club will have an additional women's team that will play in Division 2 of the SFLW.



I thank and pay tribute to all the players and to Head Coach Darren McConnon and his assistant coach brother Mark and to our Women's football Director Steve Bailey who is stepping down from the role at the AGM.

Steve has been a great leader at our footy club and played a key role in securing the second women's team for the club.

He won't be lost to us which is great, and I thank him for the magnificent work he had done in growing and developing our women's footy program at North Hobart.



## Men's Program

Our men also performed admirably during the year.

Our Senior Men's team was extremely competitive in most games and while only winning two for the year we lost six games by less than 25 points and eight by less than 40. We were in games for longer than we have been in the past and importantly we have retained, at the time of writing, 95 per cent of the current list for 2022 and beyond.

Our Development League team won seven games and again showed improvement and our under 18s showed great resilience to also show improvement.

We have also recruited well for next season with some high-profile recruits coming to the club from interstate, other TSL clubs and from other parts of the state and local competitions.

The club now has a far more structured approach to recruiting including having a recruiting committee, a scout on the mainland, and one in each region of the state.

We also have, in my view, the state's best footy program headed up by Senior Coach Clinton French.

I want to pay tribute to all our coaches. To Clinton and his assistants Adam Bester, Ollie Di Venuto, Richard Robinson, and Aaron Vince many thanks and well done.



To Brad Tilbury who coached the Development League team and was ably assisted by Lewis Goss also well done and thanks for your great work.

To Simon Harris many thanks for all your terrific work in coaching our under 18s. This year was Simon's last, and we thank him for all his great work over the past two years. Also, many thanks to his assistants Cam Brown, Nick McGann, and Kevin Anders.

In my time at the club the players are invested in the men's footy program as much as they ever have been, and this is a great tribute to the leadership of Clinton and the way he's empowered his coaching team and enthused the playing group. The buy-in by the players and coaches is enormous and that bodes very well for the future.



# Boys and Girls Junior High Performance Program

One of the great initiatives during the year was the creation of a junior high-performance program for the club that will see boys and girls from Sandy Bay and North Hobart Juniors be introduced to a high-performance program at our footy club.

A big well done to men's footy director Luke Curtain, Senior Coach Clinton French, Richard Robinson, and Ken Hall for all their great work in getting this vital program in place.



## Thanks to Sam, Emily, Ash, Paul, Rick, our support staff and the Board

I also want to thank a number of people for their great work.

To Sam Yee many thanks and well done on the great High-Performance Program you have created at our club. Sam is not only an expert in strength and conditioning and creating a high-performance environment, but the players of both the men and women's programs love him and the energy and enthusiasm he brings.

Many thanks as well to Emily Mifsud for the role she is playing in assisting Sam.

Many thanks and well done to Ash Pearton on a magnificent innings as a trainer and head trainer for us for the past three years. Ash has done a magnificent job and has been a joy to work with. We wish her every success in future and know she won't be a stranger to us.

To all our trainers, our physios from Back in Motion and support staff who do a myriad of roles on game day many thanks for all your help and great work.

I want to thank and pay tribute to our General Manager Paul Curtain for all the magnificent work he does for our footy club.

He is tireless, smart, strategic, gets things done and is a joy to work with. The lift into the Plaister Stand will be one of his many great achievements for our footy club.

To Rick Tipping well done and thanks on putting in place a well-being policy for the club and a great well-being program. We believe we are the only club to have done this in the state. The program includes free, confidential mental health counselling for our people through a partnership with Relationships Australia.

Also, many thanks to our board for their great work during the year. The club is in great shape and functioning well due to the great work of many including of course my fellow directors.

During the year Jess Medhurst, Paul Gourlay and Neville Howlett stepped down as Directors. All have played key roles in getting the club to the position of strength that its now in and I thank them all for the great contributions.

None will be lost to the club, and they will continue to make important contributions.

Current board members and our organization chart are included as Appendix 1.

# Vale David Omant

During the year we sadly lost one of our great people in David 'Daisy' Omant.

David is a Life Member (1983) and member of the club's Hall of Fame (2004) and for over four decades bled Red and Blue as an administrator for the club.

Without doubt David raised more money for North Hobart than any other individual in the club's history and his love and passion for the club is legendary as was his work ethic.

His persistence and single-minded determination to do whatever he could to make North Hobart prosper reflects the passion and commitment that has existed at our footy club for 140 years and why we have been so successful.

David's persistence and determination embodied, in every sense, the Never Say Die ethos of our club.

He was the AFL Tasmania Football Volunteer of the Year in 2000 and was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2010 for services to the community.

David was deeply saddened by the forced merger with Hobart in 2012 and that episode also had a detrimental impact on his health.

He was also very pleased to see the club return to playing as North Hobart in 2018.



We've lost one of our truly great and irreplaceable people. However, he will always be remembered and to that end the North Hobart Football Club will, starting at this year's AGM, in recognition of the great service David provided, award the David Omant Club Person of the Year Award to a person who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve our great club.

## Conclusion and Future of the Game in Tasmania

Tasmanian Football stands at the crossroads.

A home-grown Tasmanian AFL team is critical and will, as Colin Carter said, secure the game here. He stated on page 14 of his July 2021 report to the AFL Commission, "The direct 'investment' of the \$15 million distribution into Tasmania leads to a further \$25 million per year being raised locally through sponsorships, memberships, government support and attendances.

The result is that around \$40 million would be spent supporting football each year in that state. The AFL will have secured Tasmania as a core piece of its heartland while creating an organisation with around 100 or so jobs for players, former players, and other officers. It will revitalise our code in Tasmania."

A vibrant, strong state league with a salary cap of at least \$200,000 and at least one team on the North-West Coast is critical for pathways and to underpin a Tasmanian AFL team in the same way the SANFL and WAFL do in South Australia and Western Australia. Frankly I'm sick to death of losing talented young North Hobart players that don't get drafted to South Australia and the VFL. It's soul-destroying.

In advance of an AFL Team, Tasmania should also create its own footy academy like other AFL mainland teams have and put in place an independent commission to run the game here which is what exists in South Australia and Western Australia.

Another vital component of the jigsaw towards a better footy environment in Tasmania is to finally put a cap and limit on player payments in competitions that sit under the TSL and ensure they are properly policed. Frankly it should have happened ages ago and it's way past time that it occurred.

# BIG THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

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