

**ORANGE THUNDER TOUCH FOOTBALL
PRESIDENTS REPORT 2019-2020**

This year at Orange Touch has been a different kind of year within our touch community & outside our touch community.

We have seen a huge environmental impact on our 2019-20 touch season that I have not seen in the many years I have been involved with touch football, which would equate to around 25 years.

We started out our season with so many new ideas & with the fresh start of a new season myself & the committee couldn't wait to implement some of these things.

Some of the environmental effects that has had a strain on our season was firstly very high temperatures before Christmas caused us to either delay play on some nights or even abandon a couple of rounds completely. Another factor that contributed to loss of non-played rounds was the constant amount of smoke in the air from bush fires.

Our committee had to make some tough decisions at times, which were sometimes not always supported by all our members. However, we have a duty of care for ALL involved in our touch football community & our decisions are made for the safety & wellbeing of all involved to the best our ability.

What was already a trying season with all environmental hazards that we had to deal with & also a few incidents that happened at our local touch fields, we then had a whole new problem on our hands which is what we are living in now & that is COVID. We unfortunately had to make another tough decision to abandon our finals series with the onset of COVID back in February. We did all we could to push through to finish our season safely however for the safety of all we had no other choice but to abandon our Finals series.

We had planned a never been done before Grand Final Gala Day to bring all participants & family members together for fun day out. Unfortunately, that didn't go ahead so looking forward we are hoping that we can give it another shot or something very similar if our environment is still as it is now.

All of the above did not only impact on our local competition but also our Representative teams with trainings & tournaments. We attended many tournaments that seen games shortened or delayed given the high temperatures the players were playing in. Plus some tournaments were also impacted with the smoke from fires as well. We also had some tournaments that had to be abandoned all together again for the safety of all involved.

I want to thank all our junior & senior represented sides that were affected by this & it's a credit to them all as most have now come back for another season they didn't let this dampen their love for touch footy.

Congratulations to all our representative teams, players & coaching staff for another successful season given the circumstances.

I would especially like to Thank Joel Beggall for all that he has done for our representative sides of touch football & touch footy in general. Joel also now formed a group within our committee that focus on our representative path. I would like to thank Wayne Hill & Mitchell Leonard for all that you have done as well to assist Joel.

Thank you to Tracee Livingstone for your tireless hours of work you put into touch footy behind the scenes, I know what goes into this job as I have been there myself, it can sometimes be a thankless job but we appreciate everything you do Tracee, you are amazing.

We had a new position this season, which was our Member Protection officer, Thank you to Scott Maunder for all of your expert advice & your wealth of knowledge you have brought to our committee.

Lastly but for most I want to thank my entire wonderful committee as it has been a very tough season with some really hard decisions both personally & for our touch community. Committees do not always agree when it comes to some decisions however therefore this is why we have committees. Decisions cannot be held on one person's shoulders & decisions can't be made unless we have consensus of the majority of the committee. I think we are specially blessed with such a great group of people on our committee & we are all mature enough to move on when sometimes things don't go our way, we do this for the greater good of touch footy. Not only do we have great professionalism within our committee, but we have formed some great friendships & this has been passed down through our children. You only have to be at touch football on round night to see what we as touch community have built for people of all ages to be a part of. Kids play with parents & it is such a great attribute to our association what we strived so hard to build.

Good luck to all the new committee that will be elected tonight & may you all go forth & keep growing this association & appreciate it for the wonderful sport it is.

We look forward to & welcome all new ideas & new committee members into our Touch Football community.

Cathy Goodlock
President