

The Tumby Bay Football Club was formed in **1906** and the records show that it was initiated by Constable Simmons, Mr Sydney Milton Bawden and Mr A Garrett. The officials of the club were Mr. J. Lynch, Mr C. Neindorf, Mr. L. Brock and Mr W. Schrieber.

Matches in those days were arranged and played wherever possible, players and officials travelled by horse, buggies and drays. Playing conditions were fairly primitive, games were played on no recognised ovals, the best available paddocks were marked out, goal posts were erected and obstructions including stumps removed to give a clear playing area.

In **1907** Tumby Bay joined the Port Lincoln Football Association. Teams comprised of Waybacks, Boston Bay, Port Lincoln and an aboriginal team from Poonidie.

Games played between Tumby Bay and Port Lincoln teams were played in a paddock belonging to Mr Goodeon White River Station.

In **1908** Tumby Bay won its first premiership.

**1910 - 1912** Tumby Bay, Lipson, Carrow and Moody formed a Warratta Football Association, Yallunda Flat also formed a team and joined at a later date.

In **1913** Tumby Bay defeated Railways to win the premiership in the Port Lincoln Association.

In **1915 – 1919** the club went into recession due to World War I

After the war in **1920** Tumby Bay defeated Lipson in the Grand Final when the Todd Reservoir was being built and a team was formed called White River, around the same time a team from Point Bolinbroke known as the 'Sandhill Savages' also competed.

In **1925** Tumby Bay and Lipson joined the Eastern Eyre Peninsula Football Association which comprised of teams from Ungarra, Butler, Yallunda Flat, Carrow (Port Neill) and for a while Wharminda. The records show that Tumby Bay were premiers although it is not known who they defeated in the final.

In **1926** White River reformed and became a part of this association and called themselves the Combines, but they only lasted a short time before they folded again.

In **1928** Fred.Kschenka was voted the Port Lincoln Times 'Most Popular Player' in the Eastern Eyre League after a poll was conducted. Tumby Bay team mates Michael Drake and Harry Davie were voted second and third respectively.

Tumby Bay had a very successful era in the mid to late thirties winning flags in the seasons of **1934**, **1935**, **1938** and again in season **1940** thanks due largely to Elders rep. Max Bray who became the first Tumby Bay footballer to win the Mail Medal in 1939 and again in 1940.

There was a short recession in **1941 – 1944** for the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War.

After the resumption of the league following the war Tumby Bay defeated Ungarra in the **1947** Grand Final, the first of five consecutive premierships, all of which were played against Port Neill.

This was undoubtedly the most successful era in the club's history and former West Adelaide and State player, Jack Connell who would later be honoured by being named Tumby Bay's 'Coach of the Century' was at the helm for all five premierships.

In **1954** Tumby Bay ruckman William Provis won the Mail Medal, ten votes clear of his nearest rival.

In **1955** Tumby Bay defeated Ungarra to claim its seventeenth flag in its 50th year. Mr M.J. Morgan was the coach and Dean Dunn who recently moved to the town with his parents and younger brother Roger to take over the Tumby Bay Hotel licensee was the Club Captain. Both Dean and Roger were named in the best players for Tumby with Roger kicking 5 goals.

Tumby Bay remained a part of the Eastern Eyre Association up to and including **1961** when they won the premiership after defeating Port Neill in the Grand Final. Captain Coach, returning Sturt rover Roger Dunn won the first of his three Mail Medals to cap off a fine season for the Red and Whites.

In **1962** Tumby Bay left the Eastern Eyre Peninsula League and headed south down the highway to compete against Waybacks, Lincoln South, Tasmans and Marble Range. With the change of League's came a change of colours with the club deciding to adopt the double blue guernsey worn by SANFL club Sturt. Doug Young a stock firm representative who had spent time at Sturt won the Mail Medal in 1962.

In **1963** Tumby Bay would be reacquainted with traditional rivals Ungarra, Lipson and Butler as they combined forces and entered the Port Lincoln Football League as Eyre United after it was decided to disband the Eastern Eyre Peninsula League.

Tumby Bay whilst being ultra-competitive since joining the League had arguably its best opportunity in **1967** to win a flag. Bouyed by the return of Roger Dunn in the latter half of the season following his commitments with Sturt, the Double Blues seemed destined to qualify for the 1967 premiership decider, until a last quarter fade out against Waybacks saw them surrender a six goals three quarter time lead. Amazingly enough Roger Dunn who polled first preference votes in all six minor round games that he played won his second Mail Medal. Later that month he returned to Adelaide to play a significant role in Sturt's second consecutive premiership.

In **1968** The Double Blues claimed their first flag since rejoining the Port Lincoln Football League. A goal kicked close to full time by emerging star John Lodge proved to be the match winner against Souths. Captain Coach Roger Dunn was again awarded the League's highest award.

Winning back-to-back Mail Medals.

Roger was once again invited back to compete in SANFL finals with Sturt but was unfortunately injured on the Thursday night at training.

The Tumby Bay Football Club ended its 19-year affiliation with the Port Lincoln Football League at the end of season 1980 and joined the Great Flinders Football League in **1981** the same year that the club celebrated its 75th year.

In its very first season the club proved to be dominant force with the senior side winning through to the Grand Final after dropping just one minor round game before losing by a solitary point to perennial grand finalists, Ramblers in a thrilling match. That season Captain Coach Brenton Lamshed won the Mail Medal as the association's best & fairest player.

In **1982** Tumby coached by Tom Tierney again progressed to the Grand Final only to be outclassed By Ramblers who claimed their 15th straight grand final victory. Tumby Bay ruckman Peter Burton Was awarded the Mail Medal in that year.

After the retirement and movement of several key players the club, under the guidance of new coach Tony Higgins (**1985-1988**) entered into a rebuilding phase in the mid-eighties and finals appearances were few and far between.

During this time the club through the hard work of its members and the generous support from local tradesmen demolished the old grandstand and built new changeroom facilities and canteen. In more recent years the club has built their own clubrooms adjacent to these facilities.

Doug Murphy who had previously been at the helm in the 1970's during the club's time in Port Lincoln was appointed coach for seasons **1989** and **1990**

In **1991** under the guidance of former Woodville rover Bill Ruth the Blues qualified for the Grand Final but were no match for the highly skilled Kapinnie outfit.

Former Kapinnie star Neil Phelps was appointed coach of the Blues for season **1993** replacing Tony Higgins from the year before. Phelps won the club's Best & Fairest award and guided the team to another grand final. He was named best afield for the Blues but his efforts were in vain as his former team triumphed in a closely contested final.

In **1995**, fourteen years after joining the GFFL the club finally tasted premiership success with first year coach Rex Whittaker in his role as captain coach, leading the club to its first flag since 1968. In wet and slippery conditions, the Blues were too strong for a determined Lock outfit with former South Adelaide player Joe Cross being named best on ground.

The season of **1999** would prove to be a great year for the club not only winning the Grand Final but providing the Mail Medalist with Brian Coad in a tie with Ashley Warner from Ramblers taking out the honour as did his team mate Shaun McInerney the year before him. Tim Leehane was captain coach of the Blues.

In season **2000** Craig Curtis became the club's third Mail Medalist in as many years sharing the honour in another tied count with Cougars onballer Guy Bagshaw. Clint Giradi booted 116 goals for the Blues, a club record at the time.

In **2005** Craig Curtis became the club's first dual Mail Medalist since Roger Dunn and only the third Captain Coach in the club's history to win a Mail Medal after being appointed coach at the start of the 2004 season.

In **2006** the club would celebrate its 100th year and no stone were left unturned as it strived for success securing a berth in the grand final against arch rivals Ramblers with the Magpies dashing the Blueshopes of premiership glory in its Centenary year with a commanding victory. This would be the first of four consecutive grand finals that would be contested between the two clubs.

The club's 100<sup>th</sup> year was marked by a weekend of celebrations including a match against Ramblers with players wearing a commemorative guernsey that were auctioned later that night at the reunion dinner. A 'Team of the Century' was announced with ex Sturt champion and SA State representative, Roger Dunn being named captain of the side and Brenton Lamshed his deputy. The late Jack Connell was honoured by being named coach of the team.

16-year-old Jay Shannon capped off a fine season by winning the **2006** Mail Medal and in doing so became the youngest footballer to win the medal in the history of the Great Flinders Football League.

The Blues turned the tables on the Magpies in the **2007** decider winning by a decisive margin.

In a year in which they were undefeated the club provided both the League's Best & Fairest player and Leading Goal kicker in the form of ex Norwood full forward Chris Prime who booted fourteen goals in the grand final, the last of which was his 150<sup>th</sup> for the season. The side was well coached by Richard Horgan in his second year of a four-year term.

In **2008** the club continued its dominance, stretching its unbeaten run to thirty-three games before falling at the last hurdle against a more determined Ramblers outfit. Playing host to the Magpies the Blues came from behind in the grand final to hit the lead mid-way through the last term but Ramblers steadied in the last few minutes to claim a gutsy win that few would have thought possible.

Chris Prime kicked another century of goals and claimed his second Mail Medal in as many years.

The Blues gained revenge in **2009** easily accounting for the Magpies in a one-sided Grand Final  
With 2008 Club Champion Paul Jefferson at his dominant best and 2009 Mail Medalist and captain  
Michael Curtis showing why he was a 100 game player for Sturt in the SANFL .

Senior Coach Richard Horgan was honoured by being named 'Country Coach of the Year'

In **2010** the club although crippled with injury to key players was competitive and made its way  
through to another finals series before making an early exit in the elimination final against a younger  
and fitter United Yeelanna side.

In **2011** the club narrowly missed playing finals footy for the first time in many seasons.

As the club enters the **2012** season it remains an organization as strong as it was when it first  
joined the GFFL 30 years ago, both on and off the field with good administration, experienced  
coaching staff and healthy membership.

Since joining the Great Flinders Football League the Tumby Bay Football Club  
and its hard-working committees have developed facilities that are second to none and with a playing  
surface widely regarded as one of the best on Eyre Peninsula.

With the recent addition of an upgraded oval lighting system the club is now able to host  
night games, which is a first for the Great Flinders Football League.