

LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF NORTHERN TERRITORY CRICKET LTD

MR SHANE FRANEY and MR ROSS WILLIAMS

RECOMMENDATION:

That SHANE FRANEY AND ROSS WILLIAMS be appointed *Life Members* of Northern Territory Cricket Ltd in recognition of their contribution to Indigenous cricket and their sustained support and involvement over 30 years of the imparja Cup.

CITATION

The Imparja Cup tournament has its origins in an annual cricket match started in 1994 between Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. In 1994 Shane and Merv Franey (Alice Springs) challenged Ross Williams and Cyril Dixon (Tennant Creek) to an Indigenous cricket match between the two centres. They arranged for Imparja TV to sponsor the match and offer a meat tray as the prize.

By 1998 NT Cricket had become involved organising the tournament in conjunction with Shane and Ross who remained custodians of the game.

Following an NTC presentation to the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) in May 2000 and the convening of an Indigenous Cricket Reference Group in Alice Springs in November 2000, Cricket Australia proposed to develop an Indigenous Cricket Strategy.

At the ACB reference group meeting in Canberra in April 2001 both Shane Franey and Ross Williams proposed that the Imparja Cup could be the catalyst for a national carnival initiative in Indigenous cricket. It gave CA an existing starting point for their strategy.

In 2001 Cricket Australia turned the tournament into a national competition.

In 2016 Cricket Australia reformatted the State and Territory Division of the Imparja Cup to become the National Indigenous Cricket Championships to set the pathway for aspiring Indigenous cricketers looking to play first class cricket.

The Imparja Cup has continued to be played for 30 years (other than the Covid year) and as it has evolved and developed it has enabled NT Cricket to lead in the Indigenous cricket space nationally.

In its current format there are six divisions in the Imparja Cup and National Indigenous Cricket Championships combined. Imparja Cup has continued to develop alongside the national state and territory men's and women's Championship Divisions and the event has continued to attract over 50 teams per year in major centres and minor centres divisions alongside community super 8 sides, a school competition and Women's indigenous Cricket competition.

The generosity and ongoing enthusiastic support of Shane Franey and Ross Williams has given NT Cricket a place in the national cricket calendar for over 20 years.

Their contribution to NT Cricket and Australian Cricket through their initiative and willingness to grow the Imparja Cup is worthy of recognition as Life Members of NT Cricket Ltd.

Dr Bruce Walker AM
President
Northern Territory Cricket Ltd.

8 October 2024