



Angela Foley, left and Abbey Holmes with their premierships gold medals.

RESIDENT TERRIFIC TERRITORIANS

ANGELA FOLEY

WOMEN'S AFL
ALWAYS FIRST

Success seems to follow Angela Foley wherever she goes and her premierships medals are building. She'll be forever remembered as a winner in the inaugural AFL Women's League after the Adelaide Crows beat the undefeated Brisbane Lions in the AFLW Finals in March.

It was easy to see the wet season humidity didn't bother her as she sat on the balcony watching the afternoon storm roll in. More obvious were the physical bruises. 'Everyone of them is absolutely worth it,' she laughs. 'To be the outright winners of the AFLW is more than a dream come true, it's definitely one for the history books.'

Ange is the Adelaide Crows Co-Vice Captain and was the first NT player to be selected for the new women's league team last year. 'There are nine NT players in our team, and while only for three months of matches, we also didn't have to leave the Territory except for interstate games,' she explains. 'A program was devised so we could train here at the same time, do the same things as the other team members in Adelaide. It's obviously worked well. We are the champions now. We finally defeated the undefeated Brisbane Lions when it most counted.' Originally from Shepparton in Victoria, the tall dark-haired 28 year old comes from a sporting family where both her father and brother played and coached AFL. 'Girls didn't play football when I grew up, so I played basketball and a variety of other sports. At University in Bendigo we created a women's footy team for fun and it just grew from there.'

Since she stepped foot in Darwin at age eight, Angela Foley knew this would be her future home. 'My family was travelling around Australia. We had two weeks here and I loved every minute — the people, warm weather and crocodiles. I love crocodiles,' she exclaims.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Physical and Outdoor Education, Ange worked as Sports Coordinator at Numurkah School, before leaving at the end of 2012 and heading for Darwin. 'I'd planned on doing relief teaching, but got a call from The Essington School after being here only a week and started the following Monday.'

She's now the Director of Sport at The Essington School. 'I love working across all age groups. All the kids are so encouraging. Their comments lift my spirits and keep me grounded.'

She's the only woman to win two League Best and Fairest awards, two Best On Ground awards and all three Grand Finals during her three years of playing for Waratah's Women's NTFL and now the inaugural AFLW grand final. 'I actually haven't had any grand final losses yet, whether football, netball or basketball,' she proudly announces. 'Who knows if my career would have blossomed as much if I had stayed in Bendigo, but I know I've been extremely blessed since arriving in Darwin and love everything I'm able to do here. The Territory's great.'

ABBEY HOLMES

WOMEN'S AFL
KICKING GOALS

When future historians look back at the inaugural season of the AFL Women's League, Abbey Holmes' name will be there in the winning Adelaide Crows team and making the Territory proud. It's difficult to believe that the 170cm model-like blonde is one of the new breed of AFL women's footballers, and also the first woman in Australia and the Northern Territory to kick over 100 goals — actually 105 from 14 games for Tahs in her first NTFL season during 2014. 'I even received congratulatory text messages from Warwick Capper and my childhood sporting hero Andrew McLeod,' recalls 26 year old Abbey.

As well as being a businesswoman and television reporter, her sporting background is in netball. 'I've represented Australia at junior level, as well as South Australia and NT at underage nationals and in the Australian Netball League. It wasn't until I arrived in the Top End from Adelaide that I became interested in playing women's football,' she explains. 'The girls I played netball with were playing NTFL in the off-season. With no boys in the family to follow in Dad's football footsteps, he's now one of my biggest supporters.'

Originally working in finance, Abbey stepped straight into real estate sales and motivational speaking in Darwin. Her heart and soul are now firmly entrenched in the Territory and football. 'Playing in the national women's league for the Adelaide Crows has fulfilled a lifelong ambition,' she smiles. 'I was born in 1991, the Crows AFL inaugural year, so I've really been supporting them my entire life. I'm an ex-South Australian whose home is now the Northern Territory. It's a good fit and a dream come true pulling on a Crows jersey. And now to have won the inaugural AFLW final, beating the undefeated Brisbane Lions — I'm over the moon.'

Abbey's not only a multi-talented sports star who has participated in many charity matches raising funds for prostate cancer research and children's oncology treatment, but is a role model, a perfect ambassador for living an active and healthy lifestyle, and also the co-founder of up and coming active wear brand — Esnetica. 'Shannon, Charlene and myself have been building Esnetica since our first range launched in December 2014 — we are now weeks away from launching range three.'

After tearing rib cartilage during the NTFL 2016 Women's Grand Final, Abbey spent the winter AFL season in Melbourne as a Channel 7 VFL boundary rider. 'I enjoyed the media stint and even got to present Goal of the Year to Eddie Betts at the Brownlow.' Her eyes lit up. 'It's no secret that I'd love to pursue a career in football broadcasting in the future, but my main focus is playing many more AFLW games first. No one expected us to be in the finals, so winning was even sweeter and especially creating history for the Territory!'



RESIDENT TERRIFIC TERRITORIANS

DR JIM SCATTINI AM

RETIRED DOCTOR – KATHERINE

Upon his retirement at a civic reception in January 2016, Dr James Scattini received the only Key to Katherine ever presented to date. 'I'm humbled,' he admits. 'It's been an exciting and challenging 50 years.'

Jim and his wife Marie first drove through Katherine in 1966 on their way to his three-year placement in Darwin intending to stay the night, 'But St Patrick's Day celebrations at Kirby's Bar were in full swing and there wasn't any accommodation available. We found a bed in Pine Creek, but it was just as rowdy. Welcome to the Territory!'

After eight months in Darwin Dr Scattini was sent to Katherine Hospital for the remainder of his placement. 'Being a small town meant we had to be self-sufficient and do anything and everything,' he remembers. 'With no dentist or vet in town then I dealt with many dental problems and thankfully saved, rather than killing many an animal too.'

He reckons the most rewarding part of the job was obstetrics, and he's delivered thousands of babies, including babies of the babies. 'One of the advantages of working in a small town was treating generations. It's satisfying to see people through various stages of their life. You become a part of the community.'

Jim has worked in just about every area of medicine from outpatients, surgical, obstetrics, anaesthetics and even forensic autopsies during his 50 years as a Medical Officer.

In 1971 he opened his own private practice. 'It was hectic. I still did everything, but was my own boss. I had one week off in two years.'

He had two long-term partners at Kintore Clinic. 'For 20 years, Peter Short, who came with me to Katherine Hospital and David Brummitt since 1991. Over the years we've trained many a medical student and doctors training to enter general practice.'

Selling the clinic prior to retirement Jim admits computers finally beat him. 'The Clinic is now part of the national Family Medicine Program. This is good for the people.'

But Jim and Marie have no plans of leaving Katherine. 'We've already purchased our plots at the local cemetery,' they both laugh. 'Katherine will always be our home.'

TOM NICHOLS

CROC CATCHER – PARKS AND WILDLIFE

CROCODILES ROCK

Darwin is right in the middle of prime crocodile habitat, where these predators almost outnumber residents. Managing the last line of defence between humans and crocodiles is Tom Nichols, veteran Senior Wildlife Ranger at NT Parks and Wildlife Commission's Crocodile Management Unit, with his specialist team of five.

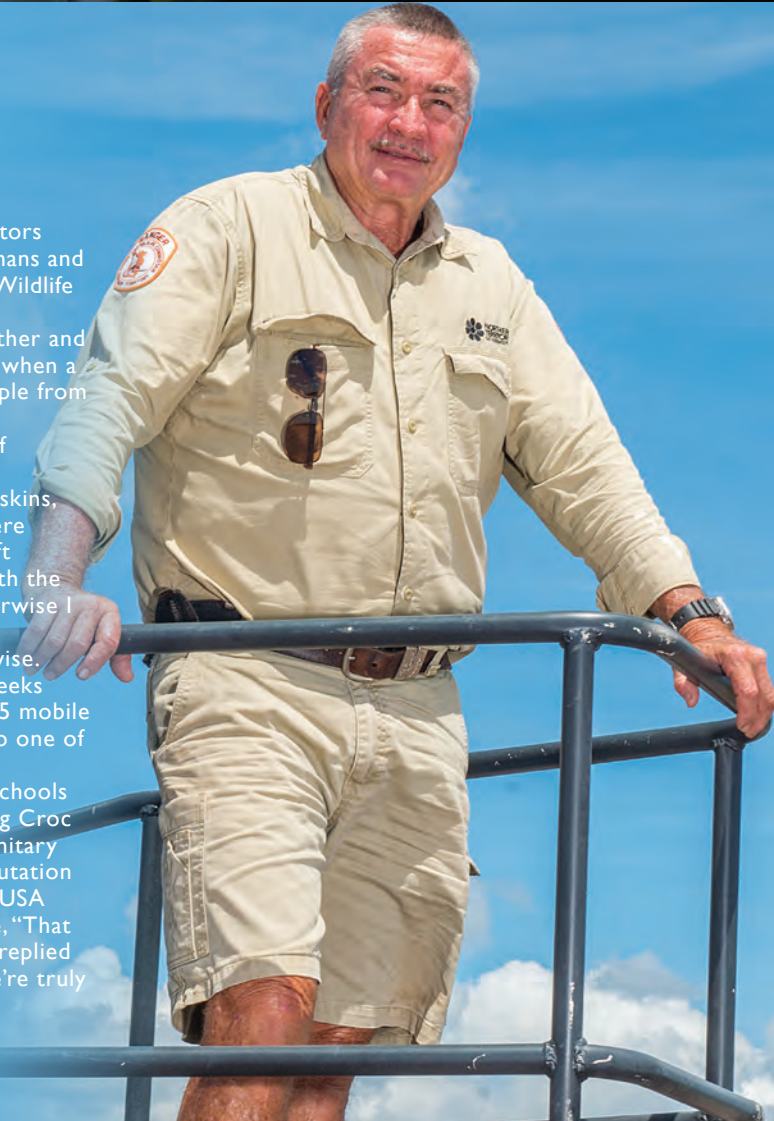
Darwin born and bred, Tom had always relished the outdoors. 'Both my father and grandfather insisted I get a trade, so I became a Diesel Fitter. But in 1981 when a Wildlife Ranger position was advertised I couldn't resist. Three other people from down south were offered the job before I eventually got it.'

Crocodiles weren't the issue back then with only around 5,000 because of previous hunting practices. Now there's over 100,000 in Territory waters.

'Established 20 years ago, the Crocodile Management Unit was Neville Haskins, me, a three metre tinny and a handful of traps — sometimes the crocs were bigger than our boat,' he laughs. Even losing two fingers and part of his left hand 14 years ago hasn't reduced his love of the job. 'The croc jumped with the snout rope attached, grabbing hold of my hand. Fortunately he let go otherwise I could've lost my arm.'

Today the specialist team encourages and educates everyone to Be Crocwise. They respond to 24 hour call outs, patrolling the Darwin coastline and creeks checking the 26 permanent traps, six permanent mobile traps and 40 to 45 mobile traps, during the Wet. 'Capturing around 300 crocs a year, we take them to one of the five Territory crocodile farms.'

The Unit is also part of a wider educational program for locals, tourists, schools and television worldwide. Several documentaries have been made including Croc Catchers, Outback Hunters and Wildlife Rescue. 'Our most important dignitary was Prince Harry in 2015. It's a true reflection of my team's excellent reputation that we were trusted to give him such a hands-on experience. Unlike the USA production team on Swamp People when the Producer commented to me, "That was good but you guys were boring, you made no mistakes." I smiled and replied to him, "I'll take that as a compliment." We may live in the outback but we're truly professional at what we do.'



RESIDENT TERRIFIC TERRITORIANS

MONICA JANIK

PAWS FOSTER CARER

FURRY FOSTERS

On arrival in Darwin with her partner Braedyn, Monica Janik found her home a little empty without a pet around. 'My family had four dogs back in Sydney, but rather than get our own dog I decided to foster. It's been an amazing journey doing this for PAWS.'

PAWS Darwin is a charitable organisation that focuses on the bond between people and animals by providing a re-homing program for abandoned or unclaimed animals.

'Having an animal at home is very therapeutic mentally, physically and socially,' she explains. 'I get attached while I have the dogs, but it's more rewarding to see them put on weight and become loving, relaxed companions again. Potential adoptive families come to our home to view the animals first. New owners then take them directly from our place, so it's a smooth, happy transition for the animal too.'

PAWS also provide advice to pet owners, particularly with behavioural management. 'Classes are designed to teach owners how to manage their pets quickly and effectively. PAWS run two regular dog classes and also private classes. Owners don't have to have animals from PAWS to participate.'

All adopted animals are micro chipped, desexed, wormed, tick and flea treated, and vaccinated.

'Part of my contribution is providing all the food for the animal I'm fostering. It's not a huge amount to outlay for the love and satisfaction that I get in return. I also prepare all the wet food, it's so much cheaper and better for the dogs.'

As well as foster families for either a cat or a dog, there's a vast array of volunteering jobs available. 'The team at PAWS are bound through a love of animals and a desire to achieve good things,' says Monica. 'They've certainly helped me settle in to Darwin and the Territory. Becoming a foster carer is one of the best things I've ever done, but I know we always need more people, so please check the PAWS website or their Facebook page and help spread the love.'

With more than 1,200 abused, abandoned or neglected animals coming into the shelter needing care, we rely heavily on volunteers who are the backbone and life blood of the society. Without volunteers, we would simply cease to operate. Their dedication, their time, their energy and their skills are what make us who we are, and what will make us who we become. With each new volunteer that joins us, our positive impact on the lives of animals grows stronger. Volunteering just might change your life – it's changed ours. And it will certainly change the lives of many animals in our care.

CHRISSEY BUTLER

RSPCA VOLUNTEER

DOGGONE LUCK

Life hasn't always been perfect for 61 year old RSPCA volunteer Chrissy Butler. Losing her mother and family home during Cyclone Tracy and diagnosed with depression in 2003, Chrissy wouldn't swap hers for anyone and still gets on with living life.

The youngest daughter of Richard and Louisa Butler's 11 children, her father is Jawoyn and one of the stolen generation. 'Dad was removed from his family in Katherine and brought to Darwin in the 1910s, but he never held it against anyone. In fact he reckons it's why he excelled. After joining the Army during World War II Dad became the gardener at Government House meeting the Queen and many other dignitaries. That's where my interest in plants came from,' she smiles. 'Dad also instilled a sense of worth and a can-do attitude in all of us.'

Between running her own cleaning and gardening businesses, working part-time at the Casuarina Club and operating the Homework Centre for Aboriginal and Islander students at Sanderson High School providing meals, support and guidance to those with family issues, Chrissy raised her own four children alone after her husband left.

Today she's the proud grandmother of seven grandchildren.

'I like keeping busy and love animals. The RSPCA needs lots of help, so I volunteer daily. The activities are so therapeutic, especially for my so-called disability,' she continues. 'When Dr Olsen told me I had depression I asked him how would I have got it. "Well you don't get it from a packet of Weet-Bix." I've always remembered that, but I've also never let it stop me doing things.'

Chrissy helps RSPCA staff and other volunteers with cleaning, hosing out the adoption area, playing with the puppies, walking dogs and more. She also donates bones, chews and toys for the animals on a regular basis.

'I love Darwin, not just because I was born here or my extensive family network, I love the small town feel, great lifestyle, no pollution, natural wonders right on our doorstep and no barriers. The multicultural acceptance is what's missing in other Australian cities, especially when I lived in Sydney for some schooling. I'll never leave Darwin again.'

