

TERRY WHEELER THE MERCURIAL MIDFIELDER

Ref: 2020/18



Terry Wheeler arrived at DFNC from the Sale FC in 2011; and, in the past nine seasons, has developed into one of the best midfielders in MPNFL football and one of the most influential leaders in the club's long history.

In 2018 and 2019, Terry Wheeler was a member of the Senior XVIII leadership group and played a pivotal role in the club's historic back-to-back flags. This article is to acknowledge Terry's loyalty and his lasting contribution to DFNC.

NOTE: The following tribute about Terry Wheeler was originally published in the Tiger Talk Newsletter in 2018 and is reprinted below. His games history and other details have been updated for this article. Terry's comments in relation to the club's 2019 MPNFL First Division flag have also been included in this article.

**A TRIBUTE TO TERRY WHEELER
FROM 'TIGER TALK' ISSUE : 2nd JUNE 2015**



Dromana supporters enjoy watching Terry Wheeler when he is in full flight and his ball handling, brilliant kicking and evasive skills often leave Tiger fans shaking their heads in awe.

Terry was born at the Sale Hospital in 1992. As a youngster, he attended St Thomas Primary School and then studied at the Gippsland Grammar in Sale. He first played football at the age of eight, in the Sale Catholic School competition. Terry won a club Best & Fairest and played in two junior premierships; but the highlight of those early days was his Best on the Ground performance in the Under 14 Grand Final against Traralgon in 2005.

Although Terry's father (David) had been a ruckman for Sale City, Terry signed with Sale FC and he played his first senior game for the Magpies against Garfield...

"I was supposed to play in the reserves but received an unexpected late call-up for the senior teamIt was big day in my life and I can still remember the excitement I felt that day at Garfield."

Terry's coach at Sale was former Hawthorn utility Adrian Cox. Adrian placed great faith in Terry; and, in turn, gave him confidence to match it against bigger, stronger and more experienced opponents. Terry played approximately 25 games with Sale Senior XVIII before departing for the Mornington Peninsula.



One of Dromana's finest-ever midfielders

Terry and his great friend Liam Hogan (Sale FC also) arrived at Dromana in 2011. The Hogan family is well known in and round Sale and Liam's Father (Kevin) played 63 games with South Melbourne (1954-60). In later years, Kevin coached Sale FC and became a foremost sports journalist in Gippsland.

Gavin Artico was the senior coach and Rikki Johnston was the skipper that season).

Note: Sale FC is one of the most successful clubs in the history of VCFL football and has produced approximately 50 VFL/AFL footballers including champions such as: Brownlow Medallist Norm Ware (Footscray), Bill Stephenson (St Kilda), Ian Brewer (Collingwood), Alan Morrow (St Kilda), Hugh James (Richmond) and Scott Pendlebury (Collingwood). Since its formation in 1877, Sale Football Club has a total of won twenty premierships.



John Nix who played 95 games with Richmond (1949-56) and coached Dromana in 1964 was named in the centre in the Sale 'Team of the Century' Kevin Hogan was named 'Coach of the Decade (1960's)''

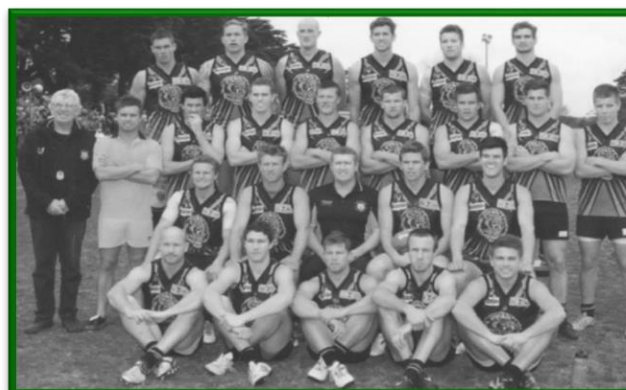
In his debut senior game, Terry played on the wing against Red Hill; and within a few weeks, he had consolidated his position as a midfielder for the Tigers. History also shows that, by the end of the season, he had established a reputation as one of the best running players in local football.



The famous number 27 for DFNC.

Terry was a proud member of the Senior XVIII premiership team of 2013...

“What a day... the reserves and the seniors both won flags and the ‘double’ meant so much to all the players and the loyal supporters. I will never forget the final siren and the jubilation of my team mates at that moment.”



2013 DFNC Premiershhip team

In his time with the club, Terry has won the Most Consistent Player (2012), Best and Fairest (2013).and was Runner-Up in the Best and Fairest in 2014. He also represented the MPNFL on two occasions in AFL Country Victoria-interleague matches * (**Note:** Terry's other major awards since this original article are presented below.)



The face of Dromana in Round: 11 in 2018

Terry rates Rikki Johnston and Christian Ongarello as the best footballers he has played with at Dromana; and he ranks Hayden Burgiel (Maffra) and Adrian Cox (Sale) as outstanding talents in Gippsland Football. Terry's favourite AFL player is Fremantle's superstar Nathan Fyfe.



Never far from the action

Terry graduated from Monash University (Bachelor of Commerce) last year (2017) and is currently working as a sales representative for a printing company.



Jack Gipp and Terry Wheeler in 2018.

Finally, as Senior Captain, Terry will play a big part in the rebuild at Dromana this year (i.e. when the article was written in 2016) and he is looking forward to assisting with the development of the young talent at the club.



Once again at the front of his team.

LOYALTY, BELIEF & HARD WORK

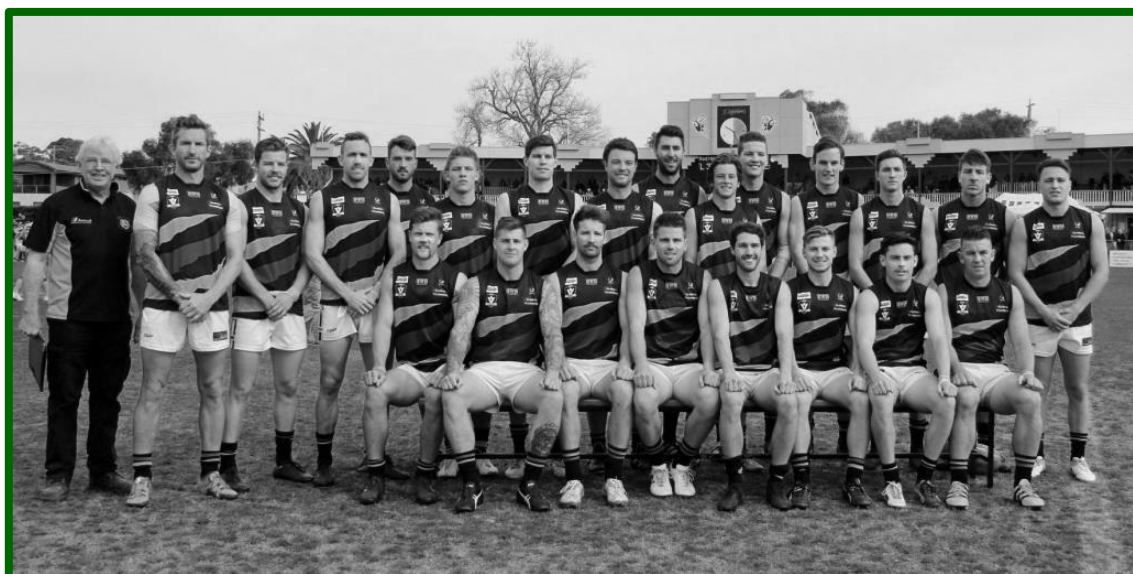
NOTE: The extract below was part of an article, related to the 2019 premiership victory, which was posted on the DFNC History Page earlier this year...



All supporters would agree that Terry Wheeler was an inspiring leader on that day (i.e. the 2019 Grand Final; and, despite injury, he set the standard for others ...Following the historic 2019 premiership victory, Terry said....

“For some teams the task would have looked impossible. You could forgive a team for not believing they could overcome the massive challenge that lay ahead in defeating a powerful Sorrento in the final game of the year. But this Dromana team was not like most teams.

The belief in the group, despite losing to the same team by 57 points only two weeks earlier, never altered. The belief we could win was created by a huge amount of physical work and relationship development within the team. As a group, we knew exactly what to do, and if we executed our plan, we would be able to over run Sorrento. I feel incredibly proud and grateful to be a part of this amazing group, as Rikki Johnston said before we ran out, “we are a bundle of sticks, when joined together, we are unbreakable.” Terry Wheeler September 2019



It was a red-letter day when Terry signed on the dotted line to play with DFNC; and the club thanks him for his commitment, loyal service and sterling leadership.

Note: 1 It was hoped that Terry would be awarded Player life Membership (175 Senior / Reserve Grade games of DFNC in 2019. However the cancellation of the MPNFL season, due to the ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic, prevented Terry from achieving that well-deserved honour.

Note:2 Further articles and photographs about Terry Wheeler’s notable football career and the 2013-2018-2019 DFNC premierships can be found on this website.

Note:3 For those keen followers of country football, ‘The History of the Sale Football Club’ can be obtained by contacting SFC at : sfncinc@gmail.com



**TERRY WHEELER’S
PLAYING HISTORY AT DFNC
2011-2019**

YEAR	SENIOR GAMES	GOALS	SENIOR AWARDS & MPNFL HONOURS
2011	14	N/R	-
2012	13	N/R	DFNC Most Consistent
2013	19	24	DFNC Best Fairest DFNC Premiership Member
2014	19	22	DFNC Runner Up-B& F MPNFL Team of the Year
2015	16	12	DFNC Runner Up-B&F
2016	14	9	DFNC Runner Up- B&F
2017	18	9	-
2018	21	15	Runner Up-B&F. Captain. DFNC Premiership Member
2019	22	14	DFNC Leadership group, Premiership Member, Club Best & Fairest and MPNFL Team of the Year



Two of DFNC's finest – Rikki Johnston and Terry Wheeler in 2019



Going forward with confidence.

REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION:

Sources: DFNC Records –Tiger Talk- MPNFL website- personal files

Article reference: Terry Wheeler (2020/18)

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