Honouring a Territory Hero

Together with Richmond football club, the Northern Territory Government will honour the memory of football legend and Territory hero, Maurice Rioli, with a scholarship for outstanding students from Tiwi College.

Acting Chief Minister Delia Lawrie today joined with Richmond Football Club chief executive Brendon Gale to recognise the significant contribution of Maurice Rioli and to outline the details of the scholarship.

“Maurice is a hero right across the Territory, he paved the way for other Indigenous footballers and politicians,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Throughout his life Maurice worked tirelessly to improve the lives of Indigenous Territorians, particularly inspiring young men on the Tiwi Islands to embrace football and education.

“It is a fitting tribute to this great Territorian that together with Richmond Football Club we have established a scholarship which will recognise and reward three young men from Tiwi College who excel in the Clontarf program each year.

“The Tiwi College will select three students every year who excel in attendance and complete a Certificate 2 in sport and recreation to travel from the Tiwi Islands to Melbourne to join the Richmond team for one week of training and coaching.

“The winners of the scholarship will also attend a Richmond game and scheduled sessions with Richmond recruiting, coaching, health and fitness and welfare staff.

“This scholarship provides a fantastic incentive for young men on the Tiwi Islands to attend school every day and to work towards a worthwhile qualification.

“Maurice Rioli provided a great example to all Territorians of the opportunities that come with consistent hard work.

“If young Tiwi men attend school regularly and put in the effort they will also have more opportunities to find meaningful employment which will provide for them and their families.

“The Northern Territory Government wants every child in the Territory to attend school every day and we thank the Richmond Football Club and the Rioli family for their support in working towards this goal.”
“The Richmond Football Club is proud to be working with the Northern Territory Government to establish the Maurice Rioli Scholarship,” Richmond Football Club chief executive Brendon Gale said.

“Maurice was an incredible footballer and outstanding community leader, and we are determined to honour his fantastic contribution to Richmond and the Northern Territory community.”

Mr Rioli’s father Cyril Kilippa said the scholarship invested in the future of the Tiwi Islands.

“This is a fantastic initiative in recognition of Maurice and a great incentive for our Tiwi College students to come to school and achieve the best they can while they are here,” Mr Kilippa said.

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