

# Southport 10 years-old tomorrow

This Saturday the Southport Australian Football Club will celebrate its 10th anniversary.

On May 22, 1961 a meeting was convened at the home of Mr J. McCann for the purpose of forming a club in Southport.

Eleven enthusiasts attended, two women and nine men and a committee was formed. Elected were Messrs W. Wood (president), L. Betteridge (vice-president), J. McCann (secretary), R. Franks (treasurer). The committee members were P. Smith, W. Mason, K. Long while the players representative elected was Mr D. Brown and the league delegate Mr R. Beveridge.

The first coach Southport appointed was Mr K. Long who later resigned and Mr K. McDonald took over as player-coach.

At that time Mr R. Radcliffe, mine host of the old Southport Hotel was appointed patron.

He gave great assistance to the club during those early difficult years. He allowed fund raising for the club on his premises among other things.

## Home ground

The Gold Coast City Council then gave its permission for the club to use the Labrador Sports Oval for training purposes and the ground later became the club's base.

A few weeks after the inaugural meeting a social club was formed with a dual purpose of raising funds — the purchase of jumpers and footballs, etc.

On July 21, 1961, the original constitution of the club was adopted and by August 4, money had been raised, not only to purchase jumpers and footballs, but also for the erection of two flood-

lights on the Labrador Oval.

Shortly after the Southport Club was formed, and another club, 'Central' now the Palm Beach-Currumbin Club came into being.

The first league meeting was held on June 1, 1961. With only two teams on the Coast, games were organised against the Army and Brisbane University and several other Brisbane teams.

## First game

The first game ever played on the Gold Coast was at the Labrador Oval between Southport and Central clubs and was umpired by our life member, Bill Wood. The number of people in attendance at this game amazed the organisers as did the standard of football.

In 1963 Ipswich entered the competition with two teams and the fixture matches were played between Southport, Central, Ipswich I and Ipswich E.

Southport was granted the use of the Southport Showgrounds (Owen Park) as its home ground in 1964.

This same year Coolangatta and Surfers Paradise clubs entered the competition.

Southport club has many 'firsts' to its credit. It was the first team to be formed on the Gold Coast, the first game was played on Southport's home ground and was umpired by a Southport committeeman. Southport was the first club to win a premiership and a Southport player Terry Doyle was the first ever Gold Coast player to kick 100 goals in one season, he kicked 106 in 1966.

Southport junior player, Brian McDonald,

was the first ever Gold Coast player chosen to represent Queensland in the interstate school-boy's competition.

For the record Southport senior side won premierships in 1961, 1964 and 1966 while the junior sides have won premierships in 1966 and 1970.

From a humble beginning the Southport club has grown over the

years and this is shown in the fact that it has over 70 under 17, reserve grade and senior players and for the 1970 season had a turnover of over \$10,000.

## Negotiations

Negotiations are at present under way with the Gold Coast City Council for the leasing of its home ground at Owen Park; when and if the lease is granted, work would start immediately on a modern clubroom.



**SOUTHPORT** Australian Rules player, Davey Burns, gets a great ovation from fans and teammates as he runs through a guard-of-honour of players before the start of Sunday's game with Palm Beach-Currumbin, at Southport. Burns played his 100th first grade match with the club, and it was his 150th game in all grades for Southport.

[www.southportsharkshistory.com.au](http://www.southportsharkshistory.com.au)



Celebrating 50 years!

