

A round of honour



ACROSS the country this weekend, the AFL community will honour the huge contribution that indigenous players make to the game, through the celebrations of the Indigenous Round.

It's also a chance for all of us, the clubs, players and fans, to recognise the contribution of Australia's unique indigenous cultures to Australia's national identity.

NT Thunder will be the first NEAFL club to wear an indigenous designed jumper on Saturday night, when we take on the Gold Coast Suns.

Clinton Gaykamangu designed the jumper, which captures the story of players coming together from all parts of the Territory to play for NT Thunder.

For our warm-up session, we'll be proudly wearing the R of the RECOGNISE movement, and partnering with a

local group of Territorians for Recognition.

This will signal our support to make two important changes to Australia's founding document.

One is to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Constitution – so it doesn't continue to exclude tens of thousands of years of Australia's history.

The other is to get rid of the racial discrimination in it.

It's so timely to think about that second point.

This year's AFL Indigenous Round also marks the 20th year creation of the Racial and Religious policy, that was put on the table after Michael Long was racially vilified by Damian Monkhorst in the 1995 Anzac Day clash between the Bombers and Collingwood. This was a significant moment in Australian sporting history, and the rule was the first of its kind not only in Australia, but in world sports, to signal that there's no place for race discrimination in sport.

Now the RECOGNISE movement is campaigning to make sure there's no place for discrimination in our country's governing code.