



Norrie Claxton was the first president of the South Australian Baseball League in 1913.

Out of nowhere, South Australia won its first Interstate Championship in 1934, and surprisingly won the following two years. After winning the first three years of competition involving the presentation of the trophy, all States agreed that it become a permanent competition and named the “Claxton Shield” Competition. Apart from the introduction of new States and Territories to the series, the format has always remained the same, with teams playing a series each season in a capital city, up until the 2009/10 season. During the 2009/10 season games were played on a home and away basis as a lead up to the newly formed National Series that commenced in the 2010/2011 season.

1930's

For many Claxton Shield players of this era, the late 1930's marked the 'golden age' in Australian baseball. The players were mainly club and Sheffield Shield cricketers who saw each other on the cricket pitch in summer and the baseball diamond in winter. It was the lull of the decisive war which was to change the style and face of Australian baseball.

1940's

The series was put on hold from 1940 – 1945 with some games played against US servicemen.

1950's

The early 1950's saw a fully restored national Claxton Shield in Sydney with Queensland returning to the competition after a four year absence. Each capital city held at least one series during the decade with Brisbane hosting its first ever in 1953.



1960's

The 1961 series was the first time all teams played each other twice and was held in Adelaide. In 1962 the longstanding Claxton tradition of hosting the event in August was broken by host Perth who scheduled the series from 12 – 21 October 1962. This was as close to the cricket season that the Australian Council dared to venture. The immediate benefit was to bring the national competition closer to a season with warmer weather.

The 1988 Claxton Shield was destined to be the last six-State national competition before the introduction of the International Baseball League Australia (IBLA).

The 1989 Claxton Shield was played in the old format with five states participating (no Queensland).

After 53 successive years of Claxton Shield competition, the ABF decided in 1988 to form a national competition under the banner of the Australian Baseball League (ABL). The League initially consisted of eight teams from around Australia. Unfortunately, 1999 saw the demise of the ABL.

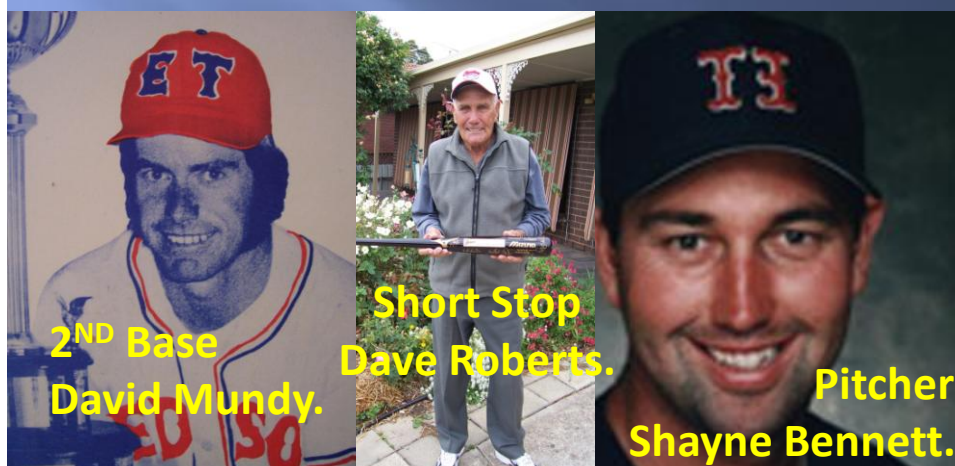
The Claxton Shield returned in 2000 with an impressive lineup of Australian players who had experience in the US Major League.

South Australia was an equal highest winner of the Claxton Shield with Victoria, both States winning the Shield 15 times each of the 50 contested up until 1989.

In the Australian Baseball League, the Adelaide Giants were the only competing State not to win a title.

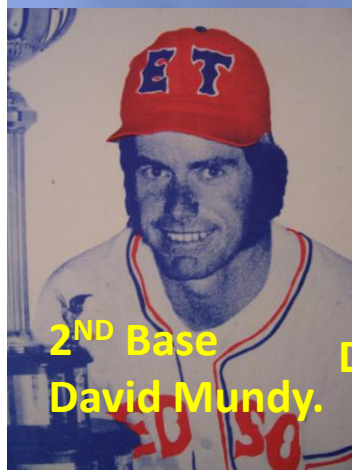
AUSTRALIAN CLAXTON SHIELD ALLSTARS TEAM 1934 – 2009.

Three representatives from East Torrens:



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CLAXTON SHIELD
ALLSTARS TEAM 1934 – 2009.

Three representatives from East Torrens:



**2ND Base
David Mundy.**



**Short Stop
Dave Roberts.**

**Utility
Phil Alexander.**