

## Polocrosse Australia Newsletter

# The Racquet

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### Our Focus on the Future

**Planning...** *The process of setting goals, developing strategies, and outlining tasks and schedules to accomplish the goals.*

**Planning...** *Gazing into a crystal ball and hope to God that you come up with something that works.*



How ever you define it, and no matter how you go about it...Planning should be an integral part of any sporting organisations activities. Without Planning how can we honestly face the future and hope to prosper.

So with that in mind the PAA are working on the new Strategic and Operational Plan. It is currently taking shape, and it is already apparent what the focus will be.

### Junior Development, Coaching & Umpiring.

The PAA realise to strengthen the great game of Polocrosse, and to ensure long term success of our sport we need to increase participation, this means developing and implementing strategies to achieve this.

Let's just focus on Junior Development in this issue of The Racquet...

...I could use the lyrics of a 1985 Whitney Houston Song to explain why focus on Junior Development  
*"I believe that children are our future, treat them well and let them lead the way..."*

But that would be corny right?  
However, it does explain it well.

The PAA firstly want to create a safe and fun environment so children can enjoy learning and playing Polocrosse. Plus as we know physical activity is an essential part of a child's development, so it is everyone's responsibility to create an environment conducive for this.

We then need to deliver a quality experience for these children...giving them the skills, support and encouragement they need. Then providing pathways and opportunities to ensure they maintain their enthusiasm.

This is of course nothing new for many within the Polocrosse Community. There are so many of you already doing this, and have been for a long time. Well now the PAA, with your help, are going to put pen to paper and commit to a well thought out and workable Junior Development Plan. Let the PAA support you supporting the Juniors!

If you are involved in Junior Development activities I would love to hear from you; by whatever means is most suitable - email, fax or phone. I would appreciate your thoughts on Junior Development – what are you currently doing that works, what doesn't work, what are the barriers that you encounter – are they financial or something else.

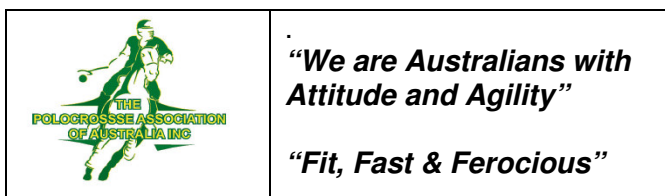
I look forward to hearing from you.  
Many thanks  
Jane...



## If you are 16 years and Under Enter our Competition!

We now have a new logo as you know; so let us do something with it.

The PAA need a sticker...something "*clever and catchy*" to accompany the rider and horse



### Corny you think?

**Well your challenge is to come up with something better!**

The PAA are taking this seriously...a Sticker Selection Committee has been formed to choose the winning entry. The Committee comprises Tanya Hollow and Greg Davidge from the 2007 World Cup Squad, and the NEO.

For your effort the Winner will receive a \$50 Gift Voucher at a store of their choice and of course a heap of stickers with their "*clever and catchy*" slogan on them once the PAA has them printed.

Also everyone who enters will receive a good handful of the new Stickers!

Please email, write or fax the National Executive Officer by 1 April 2006 your

- ✓ "*your clever and catchy*" slogan
- ✓ Name
- ✓ Address
- ✓ Phone Number
- ✓ Age

### Your Insurance

The 2006 PAA Insurance Manual and Claim Form has been sent to your State Association.

The Manual and the Claim Form is also available on our Website  
[www.polocrosse.org.au](http://www.polocrosse.org.au)

Claim Forms must be submitted through your State Association. This ensures they have a record of your Claim and can provide assistance if further follow-up is required.

Procrastination is the fertilizer that makes difficulties grow.

### Insurance Matters

#### Question:

*Neville, in regards to our Athlete Injury Insurance who is covered and when is Insurance Cover provided?*

#### Answer:

The Insured Persons, as defined, means any Directors, Executive Officers, Administrators, Committee Members or Office Holders of the Insured (not being Employees), Instructors, Coaches, Officials, Voluntary Workers, Registered Players, Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, Social Members or any other Registered Members of the Insured for the purpose of engaging in the sport for or on behalf of the Insured.

Cover is provided when Sporting Activities as defined, which include:

- ✓ Training; (sanctioned or approved by the Sporting Organisation)
- ✓ Competitors
- ✓ Social functions, meetings and the like
- ✓ Voluntary Work undertaken on behalf of the Insured
- ✓ Traveling to and from such events.



### State Insurance Reporting

*If you are, or have been, a Trial or Casual Player and wondered why your Club has asked for your personal details?*

As a General Condition of Trial and Casual Players being Insured Clubs through their State Associations must provide monthly declarations to the The Polocrosse Association of Australia National Executive Officer for these persons; and be able to prove date of Club Registration at the request of the Underwriter.

Unfortunately, if this condition is not met it will result in voided cover with all monies forfeited.



### Our Sympathy at the passing of a friend

The PAA were saddened to hear of the passing of our friend Tom Clear. Tom became involved with Polocrosse back in 1960 and since that time had worked tirelessly for our great Game. Our many Sympathies to Tom's family.

### World Cup Squad visited the Kiwis

On 3-6 February eight (8) Players from the World Cup Squad flew to New Zealand to play a chukka or two!

The Squad participated in a mixed competition made up of four teams. Originally, the Squad was just going to play in the local tournament competition but things changed and the Squad ended up playing against the four top New Zealand sides. What an opportunity! The games were all 6x6 minute chukkas, which suited our Squad, and it gave Ross Shepherd the opportunity to try our Squad on different horses and in different positions throughout the tournament.

Our other eight (8) Squad Members travel to New Zealand on 21 April.



### PAA Board Minutes

The Minutes of the Board Meeting of 2 February are available on our website [www.polocrosse.org.au](http://www.polocrosse.org.au)

### Photos for our Website

As you have probably noticed the photos currently on the PAA website are a little dated...lovely as they are, they have been on there too long!

If you have any recent photos of your Club playing Polocrosse the PAA would love to put them on the website.

Please email or post your photos (on disk) to the National Executive Officer. The PAA will require permission from you and any others in the photo before we can put it on the website; so don't forget to put your permission in writing.



Want a Rule Book?

They are free! Call 1300 363 722

### PAA Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held in Canberra on 27 & 28 May 2006. *The NEO will be sending to the States the Notice of Meeting by 28/3/06.*

### Timetable

28/3/06	<i>Notice of Meeting to Board Members and States</i> ✓ Call for Nominations for Director Positions. ✓ Call for Expressions of Interest for appointed positions.
28/4/06	✓ Names of State Councillors must be provided to the NEO. ✓ Nominations for Director Positions close.
5/5/06	✓ Agenda sent to States and Councillors.
27/5/06	✓ Annual General Meeting and General Meeting.

### Umpires and Officials...*Definition*

They are the people willing to offer their valuable time for the enjoyment of others.

The Abuse of Umpires and Officials and Sports Rage has now been recognised as having a real impact upon the future of some Sports. Simply, the effect of Abuse and Sports Rage is far reaching and the implications are certainly not positive:

1. Sporting organisations are finding it difficult to retain and attract Umpires and Officials.
2. Members are leaving their Sport, especially those with children, and who can blame them. What parent wants their child to witness appalling behaviour.
3. Insurance companies are well aware of the increased risks such behaviour attracts; that may mean increased premiums!

***Will Polocrosse Experience Difficulties in the Future?*** *The simple answer is NO. The PAA and its members do not accept physical or verbal abuse of Umpires and Officials. Polocrosse is a true Australian Sport of which we are very proud, and we will not denigrate our Sport and reputation by inappropriate behaviour.*

*At the Chief Umpires Meeting in Canberra on 11 & 12 March our Umpires will address the issue of abuse and inappropriate behaviour.*

Heredity is the transmission of unpleasant characteristics from the other side of the family.

### **Risk Management Manual**

The PAA are getting the final OK from the experts before we go ahead and place the Risk Management Manual on the website. Just in case you are wondering what is in it...

- ✓ Policies and procedures
- ✓ Event (Tournament) Management Checklist
- ✓ Occupational Health and Safety
- ✓ Property
- ✓ Legal Responsibilities
- ✓ Environment
- ✓ Club and Financial Management

Sounds daunting, but it really isn't for Clubs are probably already taking into account the various issues...it is just that we finally have it down in writing...these days everything must be in writing!

### **Extract... SECTION 7.0 ENVIRONMENT**

**Purpose:** To ensure that:

- ✓ environmental risks are identified and correctly managed
- ✓ legal obligations are complied with.

#### **7.1 Horse trailer / transporter location**

7.1.1 Horse trailers need to be located away from water courses to prevent possible groundwater contamination from horse waste.

#### **7.2 Removal of pollutants**

7.2.1 All solid waste material, other than faeces deposited on fields, should be gathered up at the end of the day and be appropriately disposed of in accordance with the local Environmental Protection Act.

#### **7.3 Removal of Rubbish**

7.3.1 A procedure that ensures that all rubbish is removed from site following a tournament or other event is needed.

7.3.2 Food scraps that could attract vermin must not be left in accessible areas.

**Extract...**

### **SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT**

Never ridicule or yell at a player for making a mistake or not winning.

Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators.

Applaud good performance and efforts from all individuals and teams.

Condemn the use of violence, verbal abuse or vilification in any form, whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or players.

### **Are you Going to *The Nationals*?**

The National Championships will consist of 13 Competitions

Mens, Women, Mixed Senior, Intermediate Men, Intermediate Women, Intermediate Mixed, Junior Open (Gold), Junior Mixed (Silver), Junior Mixed (Bronze), Sub juniors Open, Masters (*Men over 40*), Masters (*Men over 50*), and Masters Mixed (*Men over 50 & Women over 40*).

The PAA will send out forms to the State Associations in the coming weeks to enable States to provide the following information to the PAA National Executive Officer by:

**30 April 2006** – Indication from States of the Teams they will be sending

**30 June 2006** – Confirm the Teams and provide the names of Players

Don't forget our 1300 number  
1300 363 722



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission