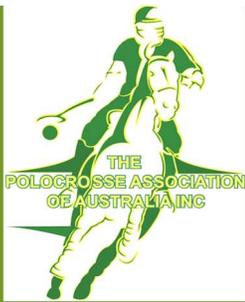


PAA

NEWS

September 2020



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VALE MR PETER CRAUFORD



It is with great sadness that the PAA advise the passing of Peter Crauford a long-time member of the Australian polocrosse community.

In 1982 he was President of the Tintinara club in South Australia and the South Australian Polocrosse Associations President. His love of the game, which he shared with his family, guided SA polocrosse through a vibrant period of activity with up to 10 clubs playing from the Flinders ranges to Mt Gambier.

After moving to Victoria, Peter went on to be the President of the PAA and then the IPC. The enthusiasm and generosity which Peter brought to our sport will be missed and from the entire polocrosse community and we would like to pass on our condolences to his wife Elizabeth and family, Charles, Phillipa, Hugh and their families.

COLIC SURVEY

Calling all horse owners; Please take a few minutes to do this survey on the decision for or against colic surgery.

The survey consists of about 20 questions and should only take about 20 minutes of your time. To complete the survey and to learn about a project, please go to:

<https://redcap.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=C8CMC4MXXL>

To learn more about the project and for a full participant information statement, please go to: <https://colicsurvey.weebly.com/>

PAA National Executive Officer (NEO):

neo@polocrosse.org.au

<https://www.polocrosse.org.au/>

HORSE DEALS

Seventy years of polocrosse in the Margaret River area of Western Australia is being celebrated this year.

Their annual carnival, to be held over the weekend 19th & 20th September, will be a highlight for Western Australia calendar. All past members and friends are invited to help celebrate this milestone.

You can read about the history of the club in this month's edition of Horse Deals.

Don't forget if you have anything you would like promoted with your club, state or any member please send an email to; neo@polocrosse.org.au

UMPIRE SADDLE CLOTHES

If any member, Club, Zone or State Association is looking for Umpire Saddle Clothes, the PAA currently have limited stock available.

The price is \$71.50 each plus postage.

If you would like to purchase one, please contact the PAA NEO via email; neo@polocrosse.org.au

UMPIRING IN ACTION

Kent Wells and Sandra Weston have been working hard to establish a platform to help with umpiring.

An umpiring refresher course using the SurveyMonkey platform will be launched via your States at the end of this month to help our members become better umpires.

Keep an eye out for it!

BEHIND THE "D"



Meet Matt Prior – State Chief Umpire for South Australia

How long have you been involved with Polocrosse?

I have been involved in polocrosse since I was 16, almost 30 years. I have played for all of those years, both at club and state level, representing SA at three nationals. I have held positions on the state board as State Chief Umpire and a Board Member. I held the position of the Adelaide Polocrosse Club President for three years, over the years I have also been a club umpire and club head coach. I love giving back to this wonderful sport and I am very happy to help out in any way I can.

What do you do outside polocrosse?

Outside of polocrosse I, alongside my mother, own and operate Prior Builders, I am a qualified builder. This has been my life's passion and up until this February I worked alongside my father every day, unfortunately he has now passed away, this was a huge loss to not only my life and business but the polocrosse fraternity.

What is the most memorable occasion associated with the game?

My most memorable moment was winning best number 3 in the A grade at the SA Polocrosse Championships on my mare Classical, she was so unbelievably talented in this sport and I retired her after that weekend, she passed away a couple of years later giving birth to our colt. It was devastating but we still have her legacy and looking forward to his future.

Where do you see the game going in the next five years?

This year has been devastating for polocrosse, having to postpone the nationals just one of the huge problems Covid has caused. With the uncertain time frame around isolation and border closures I wonder how this will affect our sport moving forward. Hopefully, we can get back to this wonderful sport in the not too distant future and work on growing our player numbers.

Tell us something that is unusual with you?

I don't think there's anything unusual about me, I'm just your average right-handed man, not overly tall who loves to play this game hard and fast.

Thanks, Matt, for your time.



ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON

A few Saturday's ago, my partner, Rachel and I had our first go at polocrosse. While we both ride, we'd never picked up a racquet before.

Members of the Club generously loaned their amazing horses and we had a ball. All the elements of the horse world were on display – generosity, sense of community and above all, fun.

Looking around the ground I counted around 40 people, including young riders. Horses numbered about the same if not more, plus there was an assemblage of 15 or so horse trucks and floats.

On the way home, still on the high of playing for the first time we noticed an oval with people playing soccer. We stopped for a closer look.

Of the roughly 400 people at the ground, with three games in progress we estimated around 33 players. There were 100 or so cars in a car park.

If I was a government employee charged with the responsibility of funding the two sports, my bias would be soccer, if based solely on participation. On deeper examination, if I look at return on investment to the taxpayer, I would see a much different picture.

If we consider a single polocrosse club event like the one, I attended; the capital investment in 40 plus horses, trucks, equipment, and the properties housing the horses, would be over \$3-4 million – my best guess. Based on 40 horses, the annual expenditure on vets, farriers, feed, equipment, fuel, maintenance (who has passed out yet?) would be in excess of \$300,000 annually. One Club, one Saturday afternoon. Replicate this all over Australia during the season (yes, I know

COVID has interrupted it) and you begin to see how economically important polocrosse is to Australian businesses – many of which are small to medium sized family owned. Carnivals and the Nationals bring enormous financial contributions to the community of interest.

When it comes to representing your sport in my work securing funding and other support from either government or corporates, my 'guesstimates' of these figures aren't good enough. That's where you, the players and members, come in.

You may have seen the recent correspondence from Graham Lane to the State President's regarding PAA assessing the economic contribution of polocrosse, work that I am being contracted by the PAA to undertake. I need your help to create an accurate picture.

Shortly you will receive a survey that will ask, amongst other things, how much you spend on your sport, and what you have invested in trucks, property, equipment and of course horses. The information you share will come to me via Survey Monkey, set up so that I don't see personal email addresses and is therefore anonymous and confidential.

I will use the information to produce a report for the PAA of which there will be a sub-report for each State so your Clubs can use information tailored for state, zone and or club-based funding applications.

I'd like to also get some feedback from you as to how the PAA can help you through the State Presidents with your participation in the Sport.

I certainly acknowledge that soccer and many other sports contribute greatly to the Australian economy and more importantly provide social benefits and community connection. But we must not underestimate the high value, therefore leverage potential, of the relatively low participation sport of polocrosse.

I'd like to make sure that people making funding and investment decisions have a complete picture.

Please feel to ring me 0419 705 860 or email me on andrew@lifetimewise.com.au

If you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you, Andrew.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"What makes something special is not just what you have to gain, but what you feel there is to lose" Andre Agassi.