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2021 PAA AGM

Notice:

The Polocrosse Association of Australia Inc Annual General Meeting of Council will be held on Saturday 8th May via video conference – zoom meeting.

Information for States and Members:

At the 2021 Polocrosse Association of Australia Inc Annual General Meeting (AGM) as per clause 21.9 elections will be held to fill the following positions:

- One (1) President
- Two (2) Board Directors

Important Dates:

- Notice of meeting (clause 10.7) 10th March
- Call for President & 2 Directors' nominations in writing (clause 21.3) 10th March
- State Associations elect council members (clause 10.4) 4th April
- State Associations notify PAA via the NEO of the elected council members (clause 10.4) 10th April
- Director nominations must be received by the PAA NEO (clause 21.5) 10th April
- All notices shall be in writing and received by the PAA NEO (clause 17.1) 16th April
- PAA NEO to forward the agenda to all State Councilors (item 18) 16th April

Timetable (NSW time):

- PAA AGM 9.30am to 10.30am
- Break for 30 minutes
- Continuation of PAA AGM 11am – 1.00pm

PAA National Executive Officer (NEO):

neo@polocrosse.org.au

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

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

In line with Section 2.7 of the Polocrosse Association of Australia (PAA), Policies and Procedures the PAA Board is calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from persons interested in undertaking the following roles:

- National Umpire
- Horse Welfare Officer
- National Coach Manager
- Player Grading Review Committee

The PAA thank the current holders of these positions, who are of course encouraged to provide an EOI. As with all non-professional sport, polocrosse runs on volunteers. All members are encouraged to consider taking their turn in positions or perhaps supporting and encouraging a fellow Club member to put their hand up. Please provide an EOI in writing to neo@polocrosse.org.au by 10th April 2021.

INVERELL SWAN CUP

2021 Swan Cup Sale & Open Men's Competition starts on Thursday 8th July till Sunday 11th July.

Swan Cup Sale 10th & 11th July 2021.

Nominations open 19th April and close 10th May 2021.

Join the Swan Cup podcast every Monday night @ 7pm for all the updates by joining the Inverell Swan Cup Facebook page.

Cameron Neville (0428 193 333) and Alex Wrobel (0438 799 051) are your best contacts for any enquiries on both the sale and competition.

HORSE DEALS

March edition of Horse Deals is currently on sale.

There is a great article on Suzette Thomas, mother, self-employed business owner and member of the 2019 Australian World Cup winning team.

Another great article in this month's Horse Deals has Dr Rachel O'Higgins talking about some of the common health issues our horses face over the summer months and how to treat them. Here is the link to this article.

<https://www.horsedeals.com.au/news/summer-horse-health-problems-part-1>

Each month Polocrosse Australia publishes a double page feature to help promote any polocrosse activity. So, if your club has something to contribute please email the PAA neo@polocrosse.org.au



PA NSW

In February PA NSW held their AGM and would like to advise their members some of the changes to the Board.

- Andrew Rose ~ President
- Ben Sykes ~ Board Director
- Angus Stuart ~ Board Director
- Kaylene Wilson ~ Board Director
- Beck Brennan ~ Board Director

Kim Maguire has been appointed PANSW~ State Executive Officer. Cathy Bennett retired after spending many years as a Board Director, PA NSW would like to thank Cathy for her hard work and dedication to both the Board and polocrosse.

TOP GUN COACHING CLINICS

The **Inverell Polocrosse Club** hosted a Top Gun Coaching Clinic on the 6th and 7th March 2021. We had over 60 participants from Subbies to Oldies from first time beginners to experienced players. They were coached by Russell Owens and Lauren and Chris Sillitoe. Each participant was lucky enough to have two sessions with each coach, one on Saturday and one on Sunday.

The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive. The Top Gun coaches were extremely supportive and modified their expertise to suit the participants needs.

There were a number of participants who would like to know when another Top Gun Coaching Clinic could be organised.

On behalf of the Inverell Polocrosse Club, we thank the coaches for sharing their skills and providing opportunities for our participants to improve their skills in the sport we all love.

Kind regards, Alex Wrobel, President.



A Top Gun Coaching Clinic was held at **Warwick** over the weekend of 6th & 7th March.

We had a highly successful weekend with 48 attending the clinic. Participant's skill level ranged from open men all the way to subbies.

Coaches Jimmy and Lucy Grills, Matt Davison and Beth Hafey did an outstanding job all weekend with all the groups and cannot be thanked enough for their efforts.

The Top Gun Coaching initiative is an excellent idea for all clubs to get involved with as all club members can benefit from anyone. I give it a 10/10 and would definitely recommend to any club thinking about hosting a Top Gun Clinic.

I will most definitely be asking the club if they would like to run another clinic again next year.

Thank you all for the opportunity to learn off the county's greatest players.

Tom Cobon.



Participants of the Warwick Polocrosse Club Top Gun Coaching Clinic

Sandra Weston, PAA Director and Jodie Hall, National Manager of Coaching would like to congratulate Inverell, Warwick & Wandoan for hosting the first Top Gun Coaching Clinics for 2021 and thanks to all the Top Gun Coaches who offered their time to share their skills with other players.

With the rebooting of polocrosse, now is the time to book in your Top Gun Coaching Clinics for 2022 & 2023. The PAA Top Gun coaches will work with your members on improving their ball skills, horsemanship, and most of all have a great time learning from the best of the best. Contact

neo@polocrosse.org.au



BEHIND THE “D”



Meet Pat Davidge, Masters Player Northern Territory.

How long have you been involved in polocrosse?

I have been involved in polocrosse for around 60 years commencing as a junior with the Bungendore Club, NSW. I then played in the Moruya Club, playing as a member of the family team Mum and Dad (Joan and Jack) and my brothers John and Jim and sister Hazel. Then moving up into the Bungendore Club and playing with them until I moved to Merriwa in 1979 and started up the club there.

After responding to an advertisement in “The Land” asking for players, I moved to the Northern Territory joining the newly formed Palmerston Club in 1981 and later I formed the Litchfield Club in late 1985. I am a life member of that club. I was able to play every season for 50 years without missing a year.

What do you do outside polocrosse? Very little these days due to a fall in February 2012.

But before that I was working in the NT in livestock export. Working with Peter Hassell Earthmoving Company during the NT dry season and driving a truck for my brother (Jim) in the early wet season before moving down to my sons’ place in Victoria. This way I got to play the game I loved all year round.

What is the most memorable occasion associated with the game?

Too many to list BUT playing in the first family team in 1963 was very special to me. Travelling to various towns and interstate for Nationals, Masters and Zone competitions - those trips have always been fun.

As they say, “what happens on the trip stays on the trip” but I will share one story. I can’t recall the year, but we were camped at Glendambo (SA) on our way to an interstate event when we temporarily lost two good horses who escaped from our high-quality yards. Long story short we recovered them following a search but there were miles of unfenced land, so luck was on our side.

Next to that, I think the 1976 National Polocrosse Championship on the Gold Coast was a highlight and very memorable for me.

Winning the Best Competing Men’s Section in those Nationals with two of Australia’s best ever players, namely, the late Neville Gilpin and the late Graham Spackman, remains one of my proudest achievements.

Being selected to play in the Australian team in Zimbabwe in 1985 and winning the best #2 on Qantas, a horse no-one else wanted to ride, was another special moment and that, along with being selected to play for Australia in Queensland later that year, probably suggests that was when I was at my peak. Who knows?

Taking the NT Junior side to Victoria in 1982 as Coach/Manager for the Australian Zone Championship on borrowed horses was also really satisfying experience with the NT side winning the competition. There were some great up and coming players in that team and I hope I was able to help them develop as players and as citizens.

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

At the moment in the NT, I can see it growing with many juniors coming in to play but the Coronavirus has placed the game on hold across the country and I hope to see all states back together soon. Bring on 2022!

The Blue Bandage program has been very successful in the NT and that has helped introduce many new players to the sport. Congratulations to those who developed the program. Our future is with juniors and newcomers, so we must ensure they are welcomed and supported.

I'm not aware of any other sport where three generations, often from one family, can play together.

Tell us something unusual about you?

Nothing, contra to what other people think, but I do help with coaching at the local Pony clubs with the polocrosse training.

I sit on the sideline at carnivals and pick-up where players are having problems with their horses, game play or ways they are holding their rackets. I go and speak to them to try and sort out the problems.

I have been fortunate to go on many trips from Darwin other NT.

NOTE: Although Pat's passion is polocrosse, he has enjoyed other equestrian successes such as representing Australia as the NSW representative in the Pacific Region Pony Club Eventing Championships.



Pat, in his early days of playing polocrosse.

Thanks, Pat for your time.



CONTRIBUTORS

The PAA would like to thank Alex Wroble, Tom Cobon, and Cameron Neville for their contributions to this month's newsletter.

Remember, if your club, zone, or state would like to promote an event that is happening please let me know via an email to; neo@polocrosse.org.au

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Some people say I have attitude, maybe I do, but I think you have to. You have to believe in yourself when no one else does. That makes you a winner right there”.

– Venus Williams (American professional tennis player).