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## **NATIONAL MANAGER OF UMPIRING - EOI**

After several years as National Manager of Umpiring, Kent Wells is calling his time and will be leaving this position after the NUC meeting in December. The PAA would like to thank Kent for his hard work and dedication to the game.

The role of National Manager Umpiring is not for the faint hearted and requires a unique blend of diplomacy and arbitration – Kent has managed this admirably. As with most sports polocrosse runs on volunteers, Kent has served members faithfully and now it is someone else turn to step up.

Following Kent’s resignation and in line with Section 2.7 of the Polocrosse Association of Australia (PAA), Policies and Procedures the PAA Board call for Expressions of Interest from persons interested in undertaking the role of National Manager of Umpiring.

If you have any questions, please call Sandra Weston 0407 117 756 or provide an Expression of Interest in writing via email to [neo@polocrosse.org.au](mailto:neo@polocrosse.org.au) by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

PAA National Executive Officer (NEO):

[neo@polocrosse.org.au](mailto:neo@polocrosse.org.au)

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



## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



During this year, Kent Wells, National Manager of Umpiring, has been testing members knowledge on the rules of polocrosse.

Click on the link below to complete his #11 SurveyMonkey. Link;  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PDNMP6M>

You can download the PAA rule book via this link,  
<https://www.polocrosse.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/PAA-2019-RULEBOOK.pdf>.

You can also order a hard copy of the rule book by emailing  
[neo@polocrosse.org.au](mailto:neo@polocrosse.org.au)

## POLOCROSSE ITEMS FOR SALE

- Blue Bandage Polocrosse Racquets \$93.50 each
- Umpire Saddle Clothes \$71.50
- The Polocrosse Story - Video \$16.95 each
- PAA Badges \$6.95 each
- PAA Rule Books \$3.50 each

The above prices include GST, but not postage.

You can purchase any of the above by contacting the PAA, National Executive Officer via email; [neo@polocrosse.org.au](mailto:neo@polocrosse.org.au)

## POLICY UPDATES

The PAA in consultation with the PAA Council Members and the NUC has been working for some time to update P&P sections 11.1 National Championships & Interstate Competition Player Eligibility and 15.1 Registration and transfer of players which includes mutual membership.

The PAA P&P manual is available [here](#)

Sec.11.1 In the event of States not being able to fill a Nationals team the policy for “borrowing” players is now clearer.

Sec. 15.1: The wording that prevented mutual members representing their mutual Club at State representative competitions or State championships has now been removed.

## BLUE BANDAGE POLOCROSSE

Blue Bandage Polocrosse is designed to introduce new players and welcome back former players to enjoy polocrosse in a fun environment.

Blue Bandage Polocrosse is about teaching you and your horse the game of polocrosse at your own pace. It is non-contact, so there is no worry about you or your horse getting bumped into by other players.

Down the track, if you would like to play White Bandage Polocrosse, you simply upgrade your membership to the Club and category of your choice.

Want to know more about Blue Bandage Polocrosse, you can contact the NEO via email; [neo@polocrosse.org.au](mailto:neo@polocrosse.org.au)



Over a year ago, the PAA engaged Andrew Kikeros to undertake a review of our Strategic Plan and seek funding opportunities. COVID put the Strategic Planning on the backburner, so Andrew undertook a membership survey, the results have been provided to State Associations to assist with planning and are available on the PAA website.

Recently Andrew successfully applied for funding to develop an on-line tool kit that will provide valuable resources for Clubs to help with the running of our sport. The secretaries of all Clubs will receive a survey in the next few weeks to inform Andrew what the Clubs need to help them so that the tool kit may be as useful as possible. Andrew has also submitted an application on behalf of the PAA to the Australian Sports Commission Participation Grant (\$360k) which, if successful, will enable the PAA to work with each State to fund projects at Club level. The PAA encourages all Clubs to complete the survey as it is a vital piece to ensuring the on-line tool kit is fit for purpose and enables our sport to flourish

Andrew is currently reviewing the PAA's Strategic plan with several of the Board and has recently been engaged by both New South Wales and Tasmania State Associations to help produce their strategic plans.

The following summary describes the project work being carried out by Andrew. If you have any questions about these initiatives, please contact him on [andrew@lifetimewise.com.au](mailto:andrew@lifetimewise.com.au)

PROJECT	RELEVENCE AND APPLICATION
PAA Survey and Report	This project provides evidence of national participation and economic impact of polocrosse. Each State and NT also have their own report to support funding applications or any other issue affecting polocrosse. The collated comments are useful for the states and NT to analyse when carrying out planning – such as strategic, business, communication, or operational plans.
PAA Club Toolkit Gap Analysis	The PAA received a \$30k grant from Australian Sports Commission to develop a set of resources (“Toolkit”) that will be available to each state and all clubs to help with key areas such as Governance, Participation and Income Generation. The first step is for PAA (with the SSA's) to seek information from the Clubs about their needs in the day-to-day running of the sport at club level. Once we have that information, we will then develop the on-line toolkit and have it on our website. It might include tailored documents such as policy and procedures, grant applications, applying for licenses and any other resources that the Clubs say would be helpful to them. The survey will be sent to the Clubs before the 19 <sup>th</sup> October and it is anticipated that the toolkit will be operational before the end of this year.
PAA Ausport Participation Grant (pending)	This grant has just been submitted to the Australian Sports Commission and is designed to help the PAA to support clubs (through the State Associations) increase participation. The grant has a focus on regional/remote areas and growing the participation in sporting activities of women and children. In effect it would provide clubs financial resources to implement actions using the toolkit resources. If successful, the grant will be managed by PAA with each state and NT receiving around \$50k each. The SSA's would help coordinate the clubs in running projects designed to increase participation
PAA Strategic Plan	The PAA is currently reviewing its strategic plan and will release the updated plan before the end of the year. The PAA is keen for the States to align themselves with the PAA's strategic intent ensuring consistency across the sport while understanding that each state is different and may have differing priorities and approach.



**Meet Gemma Stuart: Member of the PAA 2021 Intermediate All Stars Team and plays for Albury/Holbrook Club NSW.**

**When did you start to play Polocrosse?** I started riding when I was very young but started playing Polocrosse when I was 7 with my family for Mendooran. I played with Mendooran for 7 years before going to New England Girls School (NEGS) at Armidale NSW.

**What is your experience in playing polocrosse?** My first big experience playing Polocrosse was as a Sub Junior at the Darwin Nationals in 2014.

In 2016 I started boarding school at NEGS, where I was coached by Hayden Turnbull and Ella Elks, having these two amazing coaches influenced the style of polocrosse I like to play.

In 2018 and 2019 I was lucky enough to be picked in a Barbarian team to play in South Africa and coached by Bruce MacLarty. Being picked in the Barbarians teams is one of my most memorable occasions associated with the game, I have learnt so much from Bruce and have made so many amazing friends and memories along the way.

In 2018 I attended Swan Valley Nationals, Perth, where I was a member of the winning NSW Junior Girls team and also taking home the best number 3, best ASH, best horse and rider and best overall Junior player on my mare “Future Dori”.

I have been lucky to play Polocrosse at a State, National and International level and I am grateful and honoured to be given the opportunity to represent NSW and Australia.

I have learnt a lot from the many inspirational coaches and players which has further deepened my understanding of the game.

**What do you do outside of Polocrosse?** I finished School in 2020 and I have taken 2021 as a gap year, as I wanted a break from study and to gain experience in a work-related environment. At the beginning of the year, I worked at Berragoon Horse Stud, which was an amazing experience. I learnt a lot from the Grills family.

Currently, I’m working as a farmhand with John and Mirella O’Sullivan on their family property located at Thallon, Queensland. They have mixed farming, livestock and cropping, and I particularly enjoy working with livestock. In the summer months, I love to water ski and work with my young horses.

**What is the most memorable occasion associated with the game?** Being selected in the 2021 Australia Intermediate All-Stars team has been extremely sentimental to me. I was picked alongside my best friend/cousin Julia Stuart. Julia and I started polocrosse together and always love playing together. We have always set goals on what we wanted to achieve in the sport and being picked in an Australian team together was one of them.

**Where do I see the game going in the next 5 years?** Over the next five years, I would like to see the overall Polocrosse numbers increase both with players and spectators. I believe that Blue Bandage, ASHSHi-point, coaching weekends such as the Albury Junior Classic and the carnivals that host family fun competitions will attract players from other equine sports. It would also be encouraging to have exhibition games at other ASHS events to showcase polocrosse. This would contribute to drawing outsiders and publicity to the sport and which will hopefully increase numbers.

**Tell us something that is unusual about you?** It's not unusual for me to order a big meal and struggle to eat half of it.

*Thanks, Gemma for your time*

## CONTRIBUTORS

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The PAA would like to thank Andrew Kikeros Life-Time-Wise, Kent Wells, All Stars Team Members, 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](mailto:neo@polocrosse.org.au)

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

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*"Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it".*

- *Michael Jordan, Former American Professional Basketball player.*

