

Perth Polocrosse Club Presidents Report 2016

My first year of Presidency with the Perth Polocrosse club has personally been a bit of a challenge as I have not held a role of leadership before, and working for and by myself it is quite different to my regular interactions. However, I am getting to know the role and I feel I am getting on my feet. My own polocrosse didn't end up really happening and I didn't get to wear a yellow shirt all year (only playing one tournament in NSW and the Foothills tournament with Shaynon and Hugo). I anticipate playing much more this year and being around polocrosse more, but despite not playing last year I realise just how fantastic a community the Perth Polocrosse Club is to be involved with.

In early April we held a mini tournament/ open practise which was attended by about 12 teams. A huge thank you to Rachel and Mary Day who organised it whilst many people were getting ready to or had already left for the Nationals in Albury. I was only able to get down on the Saturday evening and everyone was enjoying the relaxed atmosphere whilst still getting in three full games of polocrosse for the weekend.

Our Club had members representing in almost all grades at the Nationals at the end of April in Albury. This was a fantastic effort by all and congratulations to Chris Dunlop, Pat Muir, Taj Smith, Tori Woodall, Asha Smith, Quin Lane and Adrian Lester. Also to Justin Martin one of our newest members for representing the state also. And to coaches- Bruce Smith with the Intermediate men and Heather Dunlop with the Junior girls and manager- Trish Hall with the Intermediate women's. Congratulations to all.

And whilst they were playing the finals in Albury we had a club exhibition of polocrosse at Ledge point in the 'Ledge Point Polocrosse in the Park' for the second year. This is quite a social event and very well received by the local community and the visitors it draws to the town. Thank you and congratulations to Shaynon, Tracey, Amy, Sean, Gen, Jodie, Kaddie, Brittany, Courtney, Sonia, Murray and Rachel- who sadly wasn't able to play after hurting her ankle but did a great job organising the teams.

Briefly also I would like to recognise other club members for their representation at various events throughout the year. Marnie Walsh at the Narrabri Junior challenge, Asha Smith in the Junior squad competition in Queensland, and in the Tri state competition at Walkaway Pat, Taj, Tori, Asha, and also Brent for South Midlands. We really do have some very strong juniors and younger players and I look forward to seeing them represent the club and state and I know there are some Australian representative aspirations also.

This year the club put some significant and much needed work and funds into the grounds, which we will be needing to do in the next two years also leading up to holding the 2018 Nationals. We pruned the tree lines to let more light through, verti drained and sanded the fields. The Mitchells Transport field – number 1, was moved to give better run-offs and bring it closer to the clubrooms. With such a wet year there was lots of mowing required and the fields were looking fantastic in the week leading up to the club champs.

And then the rain really came down! With 47 teams including two visiting teams from Queensland we were set for a big weekend at the Club Championships – which is the rebranding of the State Champs in non-selection years. However the 30 plus mls of rain didn't dampen the spirits of players with everyone battling hard on the field. Luckily the weather cleared up on Sunday for the finals with the Panthers with Finn Cappon winning the Junior E, our Perth C grade narrowly losing the final, our Perth Juniors winning their grade with Asha Smith winning the best number 1 and Marnie Walsh

best number 3, and our Open A grade going down in the final but Taj Smith took home the champion Pony award on Oops.

Events such as this cannot go ahead without the generous support of our sponsors, who donate everything from cash funding to product for prizes and volunteer hours. By far our largest fund raiser was the sale of the naming rights to the fields for the championships a massive congratulations and thank you to Dean Ryan for his effort in organising it. The following is a list of some of the generous sponsors who have supported the club and tournament this year. A huge thankyou goes out to them and please support those who support us where you can.

John Mitchell & Linda Ward from Mitchell's Livestock Transport- sponsor of Mitchels transport field.

Lester Family – Dick and Adrian from Balwyn Equestrian Services *- sponsor of the Edenhope Henry Field.

Terry & Bec Sellick & Alinta (Bec's Sister) from La Noir Equestrian Saddleworld Wangara- sponsor of the La Noir Saddleworld field.

Geoff & Catrina Shipp from Elders Rural Services- sponsor of the Elders field.

Simon Gray & Penelope Dunn from Simon Gray Saddlery *- sponsor of Simon Gray Saddlery field.

The Smith family from RAG's Horse Attire *- sponsor of RAGS Horse attire field.

Dean & Kate Ryan from Central Stockcare *- instigating the field sponsorship and donation of signage and goal posts.

Daniel Salter from Nationwide Signs- printing up field markers.

Graham & Carol, Hayley & David, Justin & Pippa from The Henley Brook *-0 one of our newest sponsors.

Dale & Jamie Turner from Australian Premium Feeds *- ongoing support of the club and donation of fantastic feeds.

Penny & Adrian Richards from Alternate Touch

Andrew Forbes from Alpha Dog Beds

Paul & Jill from Perth Equine Hospital *- the Perth Equine Hospital are our club shirt sponsors and our on call vet.

Rodney & Linda from Young's Earthmoving & Karijini Civil & Mining

City of Swan

The Australian Horse Archery Association for their help at the busy bee & in the kitchen over the weekend of the champs.

Mary & Phil Day for their unrivalled and ongoing commitment to the club, including their donation to Rose, the kitchen manager.

Rose our kitchen manager. Along with Amy and the kitchen crew, Hayley and Courtney in the bar and everyone who worked in the kitchen and bar well done to all. This years pared back bar list and

a Saturday night meal where everyone brought a dish had a much better financial return than we have had in the recent past and was well received and enjoyed by all.

I would also like to congratulate all the worthy award recipients at the wind up held in December at the Henley Brook.

Junior E	- Henry Pratley
Junior under 16	- Patrick Muir
E	- Elise Straiton
D	- Courtney Westmoreland
C	- Asha Smith
B	- Rachel Day
A	- Taj Smith
Most improved.	- Marnie Walsh
Balwyn Trophy	- Balwyn Kenny
Club Person	- Dean Ryan
Best Dressed	- Asha Smith
Senior Volunteer	- Sonia Broi
Junior Volunteer	- Quin Lane

Finally I would like to thank Trish Hall for organising the awards and trophies for the club grades at the championships and the awards for the wind up, our selectors, Captain Chris, Mary, Graham and Dean for their contribution to the very difficult task of allocating teams. And the committee- Vice president Bruce, Secretary Rachel, Treasurer Mary and Amy, Chris, Phil, Dean, Michael, PJ, Penelope, Trish, Shaynon and Gina. A special mention to Rachel for her commitment to the massive role of club secretary. She has filled the role for 3 years after taking the reins from Mary. During this time she has volunteered so much of her time to the broader polocrosse community in her role as Perth club secretary, managing and coaching teams at events including Nationals, a large part of running of the state championships and many more club events.

Also a big thank you to Sonia Broi, whilst not on the committee has been an invaluable club member working as web master and assisting Mary with the accounts as well as many other jobs around the club.

All those who have sponsored and supported the club or events through the year. The club wouldn't survive without this commitment from members and those very valued sponsors from outside the club also.

In October 2018 PAWA will be hosting the Nationals at our grounds and we have a lot of work still to do in preparing the fields for the event. As we approach the event please everyone think of what you can do to contribute to the club and to the state to help the event be as much of a success as the Perth Nationals of 2008.

Once again thank you and congratulations to all for making 2016 an enjoyably year with the Perth Polocrosse Club and I look forward to the 2017 season.

Regards

Simon