



**MR JIM MACGINLEY**  
**(1941 – 2017)**



The Australian Polo Federation honours and recognises the outstanding contribution to the sport of polo by Jim MacGinley. The President and Committee of the APF and the entire Australian polo community extend their deepest condolences to the MacGinley family. Jim MacGinley will be forever remembered as one of the great players in Australian polo history, acknowledged for his fine sportsmanship, extraordinary talent and peerless horsemanship.

***An extraordinary man; an extraordinary career, an extraordinary life.***



**“A simple game played by simple people”** is how Jim MacGinley describes his beloved sport of polo.

Jim came from a polo playing family - his father Mick represented Queensland in polo but was also a top rider in the show ring both over jumps and on the flat. With brothers Pat and Joe, the MacGinley name became revered in polo circles, particularly so in Queensland and then later on the national and international stage. Jim started playing polo in 1960 and during his first five years in the sport his handicap went up one goal each year.

***“Hit and run, lots of fun”***

Jim attributed his rapid rise to his riding ability and the experience he gained playing with Ken Telford – also a founding inductee of the APF Hall of Fame. In that time, Jim



**1965: Jim with father Mick and brother Joe in front of the family trophy cabinet.**

won the main trophies in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia and the Australasian Gold Cup, as well as many Champion Pony awards. Between 1960 and 1964 Jim won most major trophies in Australia including playing for Queensland as one of the youngest players to represent the state.

In 1964 Jim went to New Zealand and won the national championship - “The Saville Cup.” This was to become a regular trip for Jim, as he won five out of six attempts - each time with a different team. He is credited with changing the way New Zealand played the sport with his attacking style of play and an emphasis on improved horses.

***“Don't lift your head 'til you hear the roar of the crowd”***

Jim then went to the United States in 1970 arriving in Charleston, South Carolina. Jim and Kenny Browne brought 27 horses by ship from New Zealand, which was the forerunner of later trips of 25 horses by boat (a trip of 26 days) and more by plane.

Jim stayed in the US for 7 years managing polo clubs mainly on the east coast and in the mid-west.

On the field, Jim won 28 major titles across the US including taking the national 8, 10, 14, 16 and 26 goal championships. Jim also won the National Arena Polo tournament.

During a stint with the Boca Raton team in Florida, Jim won the National Sunshine League three times and the Palm Beach Johor Cup. A highlight of his career was being chosen to play a season with the legendary Juan Carlos Harriott.

***“Let's go down the clubhouse and do some bullshittin'!”***

Jim was renowned across the United States as a master horseman with his charges winning at least 15 Champion Pony awards at the top level.

During his stay in the USA, Jim had the unique experience of playing on the Lincoln Mall in front of the White House and playing at a private field where you were only allowed to arrive by horse drawn vehicle, hence, Jim had the opportunity to drive a carriage with 4-in-hand. On returning from the USA, Jim brought back the first coloured bandages, Texas plastic polo balls and wore the first polo caps that are now so common – and for which Jim became legendary.

On his return to Australia as an 8 goal player, Jim started a stellar career in the national team. He was selected to play for Australia 14 times and captained the team in 12 of those games.



Only Richard Walker (17) and Glen Gilmore (19) have made more national teams. While Jim is third on the all-time captain's list with 12 games in charge, behind Sinclair Hill (13) and Glen Gilmore who has led the national team on 19 occasions.

***"We were cow cockies and needed something to do between milkings and we hated fencing," – Jimmy, when asked why polo?***

Jim re-started his career in Australia at Bungendore working for John Kilmartin where a purpose-built field and arena brought league polo to the area.

A couple of years later and a new opportunity saw Jim move to Kooralbyn in south east Queensland, where an international-class polo field was established with a grass specially cultivated from an American coach.

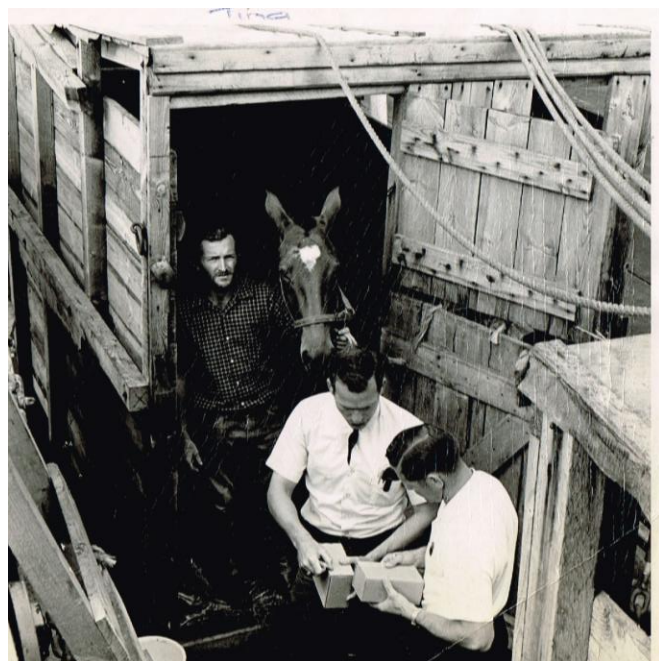
At Kooralbyn, Jim introduced midweek competition and so visiting players could have their full season of polo in 10 days and 6 competition days in that time. The resort-style venue housed the players, horses and fields in the same area plus had restaurants and recreational facilities. Players and teams flocked from all over Australia to play on the international standard field. This became one of the catalysts for the growth of polo in south east Queensland.

***"You're not paid to think son, I'm paid to think, so shut up."***

During this time at Kooralbyn as Club Captain and player, Jim captained teams through-out the season from 4 – 22 goals.



**Jim and Pat MacGinley.**



**1970: On-board the German cargo ship from New Zealand to Georgia, South Carolina with a mare called Tina.**

Jim's list of tournament victories include the Australasian Gold Cup (5), Queensland Gold Cup, Kooralbyn Open, Countess of Dudley Cup and the Australian Open. He captained and took a Queensland team across the Nullabor Plains (a three day trip with horses) to compete against Western Australia in the Australasian Gold Cup, coming home the victors.

***"Don't hit the ball, hit the grass where it hits the ball."***

Jim's ambition was always to improve the overall standard of polo in Australia, which he described at the time of his return to be 'rough polo played on very rough fields'.

After retiring from active high goal polo, Jim set standards in umpiring, management and coaching which improved the structure and accessibility of polo.

Jim's influence in polo stretched across nations through the many coaching clinics that he conducted throughout all states of Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom. In 2014, Jim was made a founding inductee in the APF Hall of Fame – one of only 6 people in the sport's history to be given such an honour.



Jim's champion pony Chips, who carried him from 0 to 5 goals was also inducted in the Hall of Fame at the same time.

Jim's club management experience is extensive and includes the following stints:

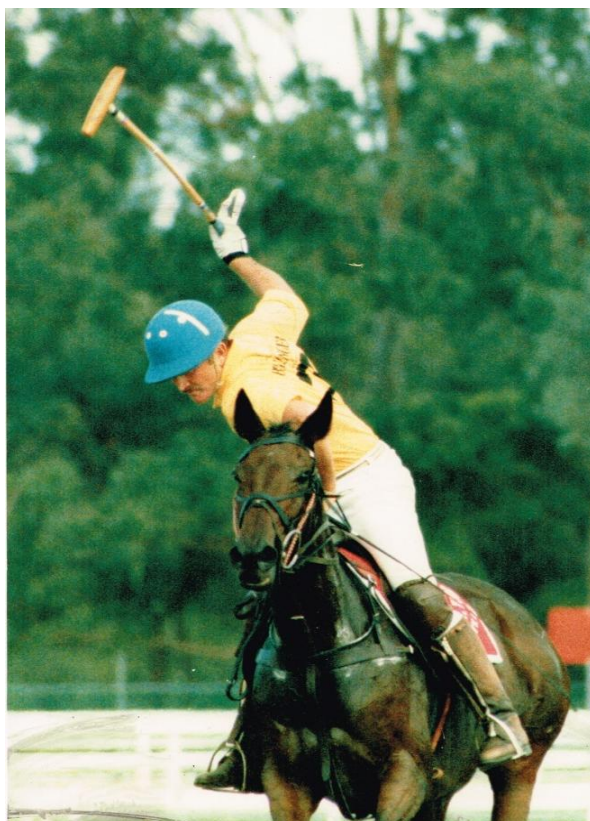
USA at Tulsa, Boston, Potomac, Boca Raton ( Oxley's ) Florida (Geoffrey Kent Rolex).

New Zealand at Cambridge, Taupiri, Morrinsville.

Australia at Bungendore, Shoalhaven (Todd's 5 years), Kooralbyn (6 years), Argosy Park Sydney, Eversley, Elysian, Nerang Arena Polo and Biddaddaba.

Jim was also one of the main horse managers for the hugely successful World Cup held in Melbourne in 1990.

Jim also variously held executive positions with the Australian Polo Council and the Queensland Polo Association.



*1985: Riding Poley in a test match at Warwick Farm. The mare was sold to the US after the game for a record Australian price of \$35,000.*

### **Jim provided the following information for his induction into the APF Hall of Fame in 2013**

#### **CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Australasian Gold Cup 1963 at Warwick Farm
- County Cup 1964 at Warwick Farm beating Tortugas
  - First Saville Cup in 1965
- First Sunshine League win in the US in 1973 at 25 goals
  - Every polo pony prize ever won.

#### **BEST PLAYER PLAYED AGAINST:**

- Roy Barry (USA)

#### **BEST PLAYERS PLAYED WITH:**

- Ken Telford (Aust)
- J.C Harriott (Argentina)

#### **BEST MOTIVATOR:**

- Dr Billy Linfoot (USA)

#### **PLAYERS MOST ENJOYED PLAYING WITH:**

- Stuart Gilmore (Aust)
- John Walker (NZ)
- Pat MacGinley (Aust)

#### **BEST SHOT-MAKER:**

- Sinclair Hill (Australia)

#### **BEST NUMBER 1:**

- Marshall Muller (Aust)

#### **THREE BEST PLAYERS:**

- Memo Gracida (USA)
- Gonzalo Pieres (Argentina)
- Roy Barry (USA)

#### **ALL TIME FAVOURITE TEAM:**

- John Tait, Pat MacGinley, Jim MacGinley and Jim Gunn.

#### **FAVOURITE PONIES:**

Chips, Black Star, Frecklina, Illouette, Serena, Cat of Joy, Sprite, Hombre, Goldie, Mintie, Myrtle, Bonita, Surreptitious, Best Brand, Pepsi, Star Filou, Suzie Wong, Robin, Acorn, Poley, Lady Sliepnir, Smart, Jessica, Thomo, Cheetah, Maybe, Neeta, Glimpse, Cashel, Fiona, Class, Dudley, Jill.

All time favourite is Hall of Fame pony "Chips" who took Jim from 0 to 5 goals and played 3 chukkas most games.



### **Sinclair Hill**

*Jimmy was a great influence on Australian polo. Coming from the Downs where he was a legend and then internationally as he continued his career.*

*Jim was a great contributor and set an example for others to follow. He was a very good player and very good horseman who produced a lot of great horses. A huge asset to the game who will be greatly missed.*

### **John Patterson**

*Jim was a pioneer on the Australian polo landscape, being one of the first truly professional players playing in America alongside the great Doc Linfoot.*

*In Australia, he teamed with Greg Todd, John Kilmartin and Tom Stone on different occasions to win many of the big tournaments. He was a marvellous horseman and a true on-field general, his ability to remember horses, their breeding and their abilities gave him an edge when playing with and against him. His generosity with time to coach and advice was enjoyed by many of the polo community who sought his counsel. A great servant to polo who will be sadly missed.*

### **Stuart Gilmore**

*Great bloke, great player, great coach. Everything he did was for the betterment of polo. Such a knowledgeable bloke and he loved sharing that with everyone. Just a very, very good bloke. Such a wonderful man and a great ambassador for the sport. Jim had the greatest support from Melinda and his three daughters and family was very important to him. Since retiring from playing, Jimmy was always present at our local club Biddaddaba and was there to help all players. He was always quick to relate stories of his polo played all over the world, where I know he was held in the highest regard. We will all miss his presence at polo. Greatness does not come easily but Jim attained this. I am not afraid to say that I loved this man.*

### **Adam Meally**

*Jim was my mentor and idol as a young man making my way in polo, I'll always be forever grateful for the influence and opportunities Jim gave me in my life and career in polo.*

### **Mike Todd**

*Jimmy was an absolute legend of the game and a terrific bloke. It is hard to find more of a gentleman in the sport.*

*He was top of his game in the US at a time when Australia was really playing bush polo. We should never forget just how good he was. Jimmy was always a part of my career from my first hit until I retired.*

*He always used the team properly and demanded players 'hit the ball' and play as a team. He wanted everyone in the team to be involved. He made you work as a player because he expected everyone would contribute.*

*Jimmy could ride and play just about anything and he particularly loved big powerful horses. Jimmy was also an innovator, always trying new things.*

*Some of his great sayings included;*

*"Great expectations lead to great disappointment."*

*"You're not paid to think son, I'm paid to think, so shut up."*

*"Let's go and do some bullshittin' down at the club"*

*One of the world's all-time great men.*



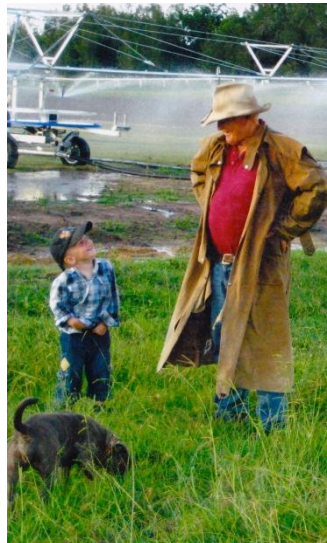
*Winning at the RAS with a couple of 'handy young blokes,' Damian Johnson and Mike Todd.*

### **ONE LAST GAME?**

*"It's gotta be RAS polo at the old showgrounds - under lights with 25,000 people watching; 3 of-the-best against 3-of-the-best; flat out .....there's nothin better!" JJ MacGinley*



*Jim on Goldie playing for Boca Raton against Joe Barry on 27 (Milwaukee)*



*"Now young Campbell, have I got a story to tell you...." – fixing the irrigator at Biddaddaba in 2008.*



*Relaxing after the game with brother Pat and Melinda*



*The imported Australian pony Thomo, who won champion Pony in Chicago playing in a snaffle. L-R Sarah Maple-Brown, Jim MacGinley, Jorey Butler and Maggie Shearer*



*Jim (Boca Raton ) on Kimba with Benny Guteras (8) Milwaukee.*



*Melinda MacGinley, Steve Barnard, Jim MacGinley, Lynne Wood in a winning Shoalhaven team after beating Geebung.*



**Easter International Team of Ponies – Best Brand, Star Filou and Turkemon with Melinda MacGinley.**



**L-R Ken Telford Joe MacGinley Jim MacGinley and Marshal Muller, Sydney 1965**



**The legendary “Chips” - 14.3hh grey, half-Arab mare bred by Ted Mingle. Jim bought her for 50 pounds and she took him from 0 to 5 goals.**



**Above: USA Maui v Australia Warwick Farm 1985. Australia won both tests with Jim as captain.**



**The Morrinsville team of Johnny Walker, Tony Devcich, Jim MacGinley and Gordon Spence that won the NZ Saville Cup.**



*Jim MacGinley's all-time favourite team – Jim Gunn, Jim MacGinley, Pat MacGinley and John Tait.*

#### **Ted Mann**

*Jim was the "gentleman" professional polo player who had worked hard to understand all facets of the game. A wonderful horseman, a master tactician, a team player and a very good captain. Jim could play, and win, at any level and with all levels of players. More than any other professional player he understood the needs of patrons - that they not only wanted to win but also to be involved in the game and be part of it. They were not to be passive - he encouraged them to be involved. To any player of any standard, Jim was very generous with his time and advice to help them better themselves. Australian polo was fortunate that he returned after many years in America, and made such a major contribution to the sport here.*

#### **Peter White**

*JJ MacGinley is an Australian polo icon. My first formal polo lesson was with Jim at the old Muswellbrook polo grounds perhaps 40 years ago and he was perhaps 7 goals at that time.*

*"To be good you need the right information early," he would say. A quirk of Jim's was that he would always remove the wrist strap to hit penalties. I remember some mighty battles between Jim MacGinley-led teams and the Gilmores. He played, he gave, he will always be remembered.*

#### **James Archibald**

*Both Jim and Pat always supported the Nabinabah sale, where we usually had about 40 horses that were for sale by auction. They would ride and comment on the horses. We always admired the ability they both had to sort the horses out and they were by far the most accurate and astute of the many buyers we had. Added to that was the humour that went with a day with the MacGinleys.*

*I clearly remember a couple of test matches in the mid 1980's against the USA. Jim was captain with Pat, John Tait and Jim Gunn at back. They were about a 21 goal team and they beat the US in both tests. Jim was so outstanding in every aspect of the game that we all came away respecting his ability to reach the top of Australian polo for so many years. He was a great horseman, tough, with great tactics and we all understood why he reached 8 goals.*

#### **John Kilmartin**

*Jim MacGinley, one of the first Australian professional polo players, was always a calming and generous influence.*

*He always demonstrated respect for the rules and traditions of our game, ever-ready to help with advice on all facets of polo especially care of the pony, correct behaviour on and off the field and anything from basic to the most sophisticated plays.*

*I have fond memories of a very successful campaign through Victoria and South Australia with a 16 goal Bungendore team, culminating in the 1979 Dudley Cup win at Warwick Farm over a 21 goal Goulburn team.*

*On accepting the prized trophy, Jim stated "I feel like Bart Cummings on the first Tuesday in November. I have been training our team for this win for 12 months."*

*In that period we won Victorian, South Australia and NSW championships, all against higher-rated teams.*

*Jim had a great sense of occasion and represented his club, Queensland and Australia with great commitment and success.*

*He was always a gentlemen. We have lost an outstanding member of our polo family.*





### **Glen Gilmore**

*I grew up knowing Jim MacGinley at the tail-end of his career at Kooralbyn, playing with and against my father Stuart. Jim was a great captain, smooth hitter of the ball, impeccable rider and prolific goal scorer.*

*Jim always made time to talk to all of us and was happy to give information or tips for us to get better. I looked forward to his chats.*

*Stories – Jim’s yarns or stories were legendary. He never said anything bad about anyone. He would have everyone captivated whilst he told his story and they inevitably finished with us all laughing.*

*I am very proud to have been the first person to win the Jim MacGinley trophy during the Australian Open this year. I rang Jim and told him how proud I was to win the trophy named after him – we spoke for a while. That was the last time we spoke.*

*Jim helped my son Lachie when we lived in Queensland – Lachie was devastated when he heard of Jim’s passing. Jim would always give time to Lachie and help where he could. We played many tournaments at the polo properties that Jim managed and all were well run and in the best spirit.*

*The messages and outpouring of grief on social media have been incredible.*

*Melinda, Kate, Nicki and Sophie have received messages from all over the world and all age groups. Messages from friends, family, ex-grooms, opponents, team-mates, neighbours and from anyone with whom he crossed paths.*

*Jim loved people and they loved him.*

*“Hit and run, lots of fun” – was one of my favourite sayings of Jim.*

*I will miss Jim. It won’t be the same without him.*

### **John Osborne**

*As a wet behind the ears 19 year old, I found myself living with Jim and Melinda in New Zealand in 1976. I think I was the groom for the groom!*

*I will never forget how generous Jim was with his time and knowledge. I learnt so much in that few weeks about horses and polo. From that time on and at any opportunity I would seek him out and ask his advice, which he gave willingly.*

*A wonderful polo player, a generous and wise teacher, a gentleman on and off the field.*

*Thanks for sharing Jim.*

### **Neil Gilmore**

*In a sport with its fair share of knockers and critics, I never heard Jim say a bad word about anyone. He was always looking to help people around polo, whether that be on the field or off.*

*Just a great bloke whom I will sadly miss.*



**Jim MacGinley with two of his students, one starting out and one at the top of his game – he simply helped everyone.**

### **Greg Ballard**

*Jimmy taught so many of us how polo should be played and how to conduct ourselves on the field.*

*Jimmy was such a gentleman on and off the field.*

### **Haydon Family**

*Our deepest sympathies to the MacGinley family on the loss of Jim, one of our all-time outstanding players. I remember playing with him once to score the easiest goal ever as I looked down and there was the ball, hit by Jim, right on my stick in front of goal. We were playing the four Gilmore brothers in the final of the Queensland Gold Cup and what a team mate and player he was!*

*R.I.P. Jim from the Haydon family.*

### **Leonard Hamersley**

*I knew Jim well from my time playing against him in WA and played his horses for him in NSW.*

*Jim was a great guy and a great polo player.*

*Aside from all his Australian victories, Jim also won 5 Saville Cups in New Zealand – quite an achievement.*



**JJ MacGinley, just loved "talkin' about POLA."**

**Damian Johnson**

*"Polo's Father Figure"*

*For my generation growing up, Jim MacGinley was just that.*

*The first tournament I ever won was with Jim. From that day 31 years ago until only the other day, I would always enjoy and value his many stories of the good old days.*

*Whether it be a Corky Linfoot story or his stock and station agent days in New Zealand, he would have us laughing.*

*His sportsmanship and mentoring has been invaluable to my boys and myself. Jim's horse knowledge was second-to-none. A team leader, a tactician and a great horseman even into his 70's. Over the years, he taught me to not only know my teammate's horses, but know my opponents' even better, what each horse was capable of and then adjust accordingly. Advice I still try and use every time I play.*

*They say we are the lucky country. We were the lucky polo community to have had such a man.*

*Three cheers for you Jimmy.*

*DJ, Steph, Chad and Louis*

**Ben Osborne**

*I played a little with Jim when he worked for Greg Todd – in the late 80's.*

*One weekend, at Bungendore, Greg was not in the team and Jim was cruising on youngish horses. We were getting a flogging from a young 6 or 7 goal Argie on the other side (down about 5-6 goals). At some point the Argie scored again, there was a disagreement and some words and the Argie told Jim he was too old and should give it away. Jim cantered off, changed horses and came back for the line-out. He then proceeded to score 5 goals straight from the line-out - no one else touched the ball on either side for those five throw-ins. Satisfied and calmed down, he cantered back off and changed horses.*

*When fired up he could do almost whatever he wanted.*

*I think we lost by a goal!*

*We will miss him.*

**Thomson Family – Gunnedah**

*Wonderful memories of the MacGinleys.*

*We knew Joe and Pat and then in the mid 70's, Jim returned to Australia from the USA on 8 goals (he deserved higher but his handicap apparently kept at 8 goals to fit in with the system?).*

*Jim visited Ruvigne with Pat at a time when Melinda was grooming for father Jim and Phillip.*

*We are incredibly grateful to Jim and Pat who helped Phillip recover from a serious polo accident.*

*We admired Melinda for her delightful personality, her artistic attributes and her way with the horses. We were in awe of Jim and his ability as a polo player.*

*We could not have been more delighted when Jim and Melinda married and a very special, loving relationship developed. We were thrilled when they visited us with the senior MacGinleys and their first born, Katie.*

*Distances meant we crossed paths and visited one another only occasionally, however, our fondness and love for Jim, Melinda and their family increased as the years passed and our admiration grew and grew.*

*We feel privileged to know them and so glad they had so many years of happiness and wonderful memories.*

*Jim has departed too soon, but he has left an amazing legacy to all who were lucky enough to know him and to the sport of polo.*

*He was a gentle man with a wonderful sense of humour, devoted to his family, a top sportsman in every sense of the word and an exceptional horseman.*

*Our deepest sympathy to Melinda, Katie, Niki, Sophie and their families, with Love Phillip, Sandy, Kerry and Andrew.*



### **Alex Barnett**

*I first got involved in polo through Jim in 2011 and worked for him for two years. In that time Jim and Melinda were extremely generous in the way they helped me and remained close friends ever since.*

*Jim's advice and support were not only of great help to me on the polo field but in general life as well.*

*I have many memories of sitting on Jim's couch, cup of tea in hand, listening to stories of his adventures.*

*His knowledge on horses, polo and how to play the game of life is second-to-none.*

*Like many others who knew him, we will miss listening to him and his wise words.*

*Never a moment was wasted being with Jim. He will be sorely missed.*

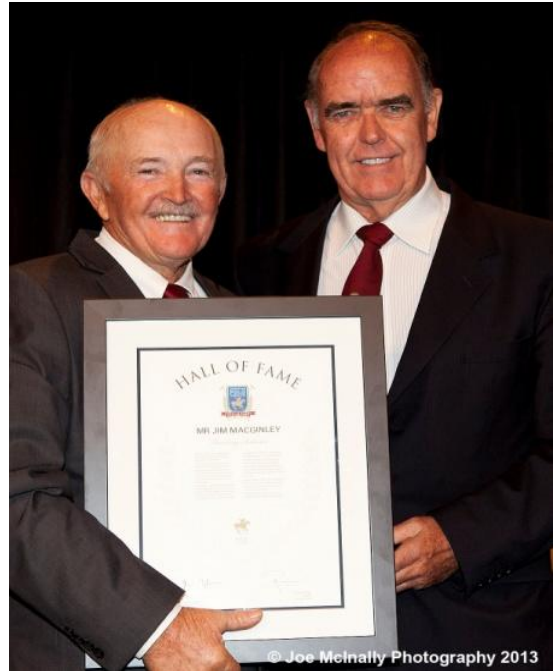


**Jim MacGinley and John Oxley with the champion mare Illouette during his stint with Boca Rotan in Florida.**

### **Tim Boyd**

*Jim was a unique person in polo and it was a privilege to play with and against him. A truly remarkable player and horseman; to watch him play and ride showed his exceptional mastery of the game and horsemanship. Thanks Jim for teaching me and recently my son Charlie, so much about horses, the game and also giving me the opportunity to play and learn from you.*

*Most of all thanks for all the enjoyable times spent together.*



**2014: Jim MacGinley is announced as one of six founding inductees in the APF Hall of Fame by Ross Leighton.**

### **Ross Leighton**

*It seems a long time ago, 1975, in fact that is a period of forty two years.*

*That was the first time that I met Jim MacGinley, but I can still hear his rapid fire description of polo and how simple the game of polo really is.*

*Jim had come to Perth, West Australia, to conduct clinics on all aspects of play and umpiring. Jim was the first high goal player that many of us had seen and as captain of the Australian team came with a big reputation as a player, strategist and particularly as an outstanding horseman.*

*His impact and influence was immediate and quite profound; his ability to impart his knowledge in simple straight forward language, made him immensely popular. However it was his horsemanship that he demonstrated in a practical way, from the back of a horse that galvanised everybody's attention.*

*His induction into the Australian Hall of Fame in 2014 recognised the profound influence that Jim has had on the game of polo, and most particularly on players, grooms and anyone who has a love of horses.*

**The Hall of Fame committee notes a special thankyou to Joe McNally for his generous help in providing many great pictures.**



**1972 USA Arena Chairman's Cup Winners L to R Billy Mulcahy, Mike Andrews and Jim MacGinley.**

#### **Anto White**

*Jim was an 8 goal polo player and a 10 goal gentleman. He gave so much to the game. If you needed a goal umpire, a commentator or a player needed help, Jim MacGinley was always there.*

*I was fortunate to spend time with Jim as a player, handicapper and an Australian selector. His knowledge of the game was amazing.*

*He was very supportive of the polo schools I ran and he was always there to lend a hand.*

*Jim Gilmore and I shared a wonderful moment with Jim in 2001 after the Australian team had won the semi final of the World Cup held in Melbourne. The three of us ran into each other on the field after the game. We all embraced and had tears in our eyes. The tournament had gone so well, the horses were outstanding and now Australia was in the final!*

*It had been a wonderful thing for Australian polo and showed how much polo meant to him.*

*We will miss him.*

#### **Jeremy Bayard**

*Jim MacGinley's inclusion as a founding inductee in the APF Hall of Fame places him as one of a handful of the most significant people in Australian polo history.*

*An examination of his career shows that he was one of the first Australians to compete with the world's best. His string of victories in the major US tournaments during his 7 year stint abroad, is glowing testament to his ability.*

*Jim's contribution to the sport in Australia on his return was significant and sustained. There's barely a cup in the country that doesn't carry his name on the list of victors.*

*Jim equally made a contribution off-the-field through coaching and encouraging all who sought his counsel.*

*Jim's encyclopaedic knowledge of Australian polo ponies through contemporary history was of enormous assistance to the Hall of Fame selection panel.*

*All sports must celebrate their superstars. Jim MacGinley was just such a star.*

*Jim MacGinley will be enshrined in history as one of our all-time greats.*

#### **Steve Barnard**

*What a fantastic bloke. Always cheerful, always helpful.*

*Whenever I needed help, Jimmy was always there.*

*On or off the field he just gave his all to everyone.*

*He will be greatly missed and remembered always.*

#### **Michael Williams**

*We will always remember Jim and his 'one liners' from when he was with us at Jemalong.*

*Don't hit the ball, hit the grass where it hits the ball'.*

*'Don't lift your head 'til you hear the roar of the crowd'*

*Jimmy's view on team structure;*

*No 1 no win*

*No 2 no team*

*No 3 no frees (penalty goals)*

*No 4 no door (back door defence)*

*All sound advice!*

*When asked 'how come Polo'?*

*"We were cow cockies and needed something to do between milkings and hated fencing'*

*Thanks Jimmy for your mateship and humour.*

#### **Jock Mackay**

*Jim had a wonderful ability to make playing polo look effortless!*

*A terrific horseman and such a clean, crisp striker of the ball.*

*He will be very sadly missed.*



### **John Wightman**

*Jim was a true sporting icon and friend with a wickedly dry sense of humour. I had the privilege of starting my career with Jim as my coach and mentor during the 1980's at Kooralbyn and apart from one tournament, always played with Jim.*

*I was fortunate to play all over Australia under Jim's tutelage, venturing as far as W.A. for the Gold Cup.*

*Jim was a magnificent natural horseman and I was able to witness the best being brought out in my horses when Jim rode them. I felt pride watching him play Sleipner, Harmony and Poley to see how clever and athletic they were.*

*Many memorable battles were had against the Gilmore brothers playing against Jim, Pat, Joe and myself. Not many games provided such high emotion and competition as these.*

*I feel very privileged to have known Jim and to be able to have called him my friend.*

*I will miss you Jimmy!*

### **Joe Curran**

*The Australian polo community recently lost one of its finest and greatest players in Jim MacGinley.*

*Jim however leaves behind a legacy in terms of outstanding horsemanship and impeccable sportsmanship.*

*Jim influenced the lives and careers of most of our top polo players over the last two generations.*

*Jim was particularly successful at re-training racehorses as polo ponies, and I have always copied Jim's selection criteria when buying horses.*

*Over many years I was privileged to have received some of Jim's vast knowledge for which I am forever grateful.*

*Rest in peace Jim.*

### **John Fitzgerald**

*A great student of the game of polo and of life, always time to share a story and his insight, sometimes with a shy half grin and twinkle in the eye.*

*Thanks for mentoring me and all of us weekend warriors and your friendship.*

*We will miss hearing the unique sound of Jimmy.*

### **Walkaway Polo Club**

*Jimmy was an inspiration to our members both past and present.*

*We will never forget the effort he made to travel to our club to coach all those years ago.*

*A true polo legend in every sense of the word.*

*Our deepest sympathies to Melinda, Nicky, Sophie and Jimmy's extended family.*



**1991: Easter international victors, Tom Stone, Adam Snow, Jim MacGinley and Derek Reid**

### **Tom Stone**

*I started riding at the Shoalhaven Polo Club in 1980 under the guidance of Mike Harley and Greg Todd. Greg then arranged for Jimmy to run Shoalhaven Polo.*

*Jim was a terrific person and he helped me in so many ways to improve my riding, positional play, buy horses and to remember to enjoy the game.*

*Over the next 25 years I had a close relationship with Jimmy as he was my team (Husky Pub) professional.*

*We travelled all over the country and the logistics of travel, horse welfare and groom management were all handled by Jim with the able assistance of his family. Melinda and the girls were always in there giving a hand. Family was most important to Jim and he made me feel like I was one of the family.*

*The pinnacle of our polo was winning the Easter International Tournament (22 Goal) at Warwick Farm in 1991.*

*As Jim would say "Polo is played between the ears." And so we would think through the strategy before every game.*

*We also took a team to Ellerston and contested the 14, 18 and 24 goal tournaments in 1994.*

*In the late 1990's Mike Neal and I shared the services of Jim for several years and we had many a success, but we always had a good time. Enjoyment of the game, even in toughest times, was important to Jimmy. His saying was "As long as you are having fun".*

*After I moved to Queensland in 1999, we stayed in close contact and played many tournaments together.*

*I watched his family grow up with the humour and sense of dedication and honesty that he himself always displayed.*

*He was always there with a kind word or advice and he is a friend that will be sadly missed.*



**Winning Queensland team in the Australasian Gold Cup held in W.A. John Wightman, Jim MacGinley, Western Australia representative, Peter Hanlon, Stuart Gilmore.**

#### **Ben Cowan**

*From the time we first met in Bungendore when I was 5 years old, you were always very kind to me. We subsequently reconnected at the Gundagai Polo tournament in 1994 and over the following 23 years we have been the best of friends. From Forbes to Goondiwindi to Warwick Farm; from Ellerstou to Melbourne; from Beaudesert to Sydney and from Auckland to London we travelled together - you made me laugh with your stories, you mentored me with respect to all things polo and horses but ultimately you have also been a big influence in my life. Your win/loss ratio and finesse on the polo field was second-to-none and a record that many will never surpass; but it was your ability to teach, remember a play, recollect a horse's breeding and share your knowledge that all of us will never forget.*

*We are all very grateful.*

*Your spirit rides on and we will miss you dearly.*

#### **Carmel Timson**

*In reminiscing about Jim's life many have asked where he got his skills from. I have the honor of being his youngest sister and can remember how he started off. Jim would ride any horse, anyhow and anywhere. He would even ride a swinging gate and if stuck a polo stick.*

*Jim learnt his remarkable balance riding bareback on the Downs riding up and down hills and through scrub. Sometimes after cattle, but more often just cause he loved it. Father John, Neil and Vince would sometimes join him. Then my other dear brother Pat arrived and they remained the closest brothers they could have been. They were pretty much joined at the hip.*

*I can remember Jim doing what I thought was the impossible and for most it would have been.*

*With his cousins he would cut down small trees and make "hockey sticks" as they called them. It was rare for them not to have a stick and ball.*

*When Jim, John and Neil went boarding at Gatton Convent the nuns found a suitcase full of hockey sticks and balls. They may have been away from home but never too far from the game they loved. I still remember balls out the front of the house ready to be hit to the yard and vice versa.*

*All the time (well almost all the time) he had the eyes of another great horseman on him. Yes our dad, Mick MacGinley. After getting balance and a few years under his belt, Dad taught them the rules and also the way the game was to be played.*

*They also had the ear of many older polo players and they all just drank it in. Polo was in their blood. Jim not only accepted these lessons and role models he took his learning's and made them his own.*

*Creating a style that could be recognized from the other side of field and an approach many try to emulate.*

*Dear Neil and Vince have passed on but Pat and Father John are here with us still. They could tell some remarkable stories and often do. Over the years it was with great pride that Mum and Dad collected newspaper cuttings and photos of their famous boys. These were destined to make the wall and whenever I got home made for great reading.*

*Through it all Jim humbly travelled with his beautiful wife Melinda and their girls Kate, Nicky and Sophie. I am forever grateful that Jim had Melinda to go to bat for him, and no more so than in his final days. They shared their lives as a family that was only made stronger with the girls selecting the very best of men as partners - Jim held each of them in high regard.*

*We only have to check the photos with his family and grand kids to know how much he loved them all. Bye my dear Jim. With Melinda now holding the fort and so many lives you have touched, all is well.*

#### **Warwick Steen**

*As the light that shone so bright and guided so many of us shines no more here on Earth, Heaven has a new star - shining down upon all of us as it welcomes one of its legends home.*

*R.I.P Jimmy and from the depths of our hearts, thank you for the gift of your life that touched all of ours.*

*Polo without you will be like a garden without flowers..*

*Forever missed.*

*Warwick Steen & family*

*Vince & Deirdre Stein*



### **John Timson**

*As the polo world mourns losing an icon of the game and true ambassador of sportsmanship, I like so many also have the opportunity to look back on the influence Jim has had on my life.*

*For me it passes more to the man he was than the player. He was my uncle, my friend and also my role model. You will not know me but I'm the quiet guy that some of you may have seen roaming around polo with Jim and Melinda or Pat.*

*On so many levels I have wanted to be just like Jim. A loving husband, an incredible dad, a champion of his profession but most of all a man of honor and integrity. He truly is my hero. I have had the pleasure to watch him play from the time I was a very small boy. Watching in awe at what he and Pat could do. So much said yet so few words spoken. Jim could read a play before the other player knew it themselves. To watch him play was inspirational. To later hear him commentate, not just about what was happening, but also the why and quite often his predictions were more than educational. Always a fine line between him commentating and him coaching the players on field to be better. His knowledge of the game, horses and also player's skills was incredible. I think however it was the last part I loved the most. The quiet games in the last few years where I could sit and listen to Jim and Pat comment quietly on the game they love and the sport they gave so much to. Listening to the old stories of when they played and the matches and shots that touched them was a true honor for me. As we take stock of the great loss we are all experiencing, I hope we can also find time to celebrate the quiet times we shared with Jim and the lessons he has taught. Most without a word being spoken.*

### **Peter Higgins**

*Jim and Melinda based themselves at our Sydney Northern Beaches Club (Argosy Polo Club) circa 1994/95. Under Jim's careful stewardship we grew the club to 35 playing members and we played at Narrabeen oval ( Clive Rodgers Equestrian Field ) as well as a Council oval in Belrose.*

*My first Tournament was with Jim, Adam Meally, Gary Rothwell and myself in the NSWPA 6 goal at Windsor and won that weekend.*

*Jim's charges for the tournament including horse transportation was \$360. I was horrified it cost so much. Little did I know he did us all a huge honour and a favour. I often laugh about how cheap that bill was now when I think about it. Jim then took our club to play at Jemalong and he set a record at the time of taking up 57 club horses. At the time Rebecca and I stayed at Jim and Melinda's Forbes home and were amazed to see two hessian bags fall out of the long wardrobe when I opened it. They were*



**Melinda and Jim MacGinley.**

*each full of silver trophies he had won over the years, just stuffed into a cupboard.*

*The story he told, continually laughing, was when he coached a farmer who had been practicing for three months prior to Jim's arrival - riding in circles on a horse in a paddock holding the mallet and hitting the ball croquet style. Jim said "the fella couldn't believe his luck when I turned his stick and said you can hit the ball on the side of the mallet if you like!"*

*And of course he called the game POLA, not polo.*

*We will miss you Jim.*

*Rest In Peace.*

*The Higgins Family.*

### **Richard Maple Brown**

*The polo community is saddened to hear of the death of Jim MacGinley. In his early years Jim played with the great Ken Telford and learnt many of his polo skills.*

*Like Ken, Jim had the ability to never look to be in a hurry but always be in the right spot.*

*I played against him many times and with him on too few occasions. One of those we often talked about was playing as NSW for the Gold Cup in SA. The team was Jim and Pat, Rob Bell and myself. I had always played number 2 but Jim decided I would be number 4. Rob always played 4, but Jim thought he would make a good 1. As it turned out he was right. We both thought later it was one of the best teams we had played in.*

*Jim made an incredible contribution to polo over the years through coaching and encouraging players; his behaviour on and off the field was an example to others and his knowledge of horses and their breeding was legendary.*

*He will be sadly missed by us all.*

