



ABN 23 129 452 017
PO Box 150, Windsor, NSW 2756

Australian Polo Federation Chairmans Report

29 November 2019

2019 has been another successful year for polo across Australia.

Membership numbers continue to be just under 950 for the fourth year – this includes all membership types including coaching clinics. Over a two-year period, we see our active member numbers at around 1150.

Junior polo development has been a focus this year with 12 Junior Polo Schools & event initiatives in 2019, more than any previous year, and with at least as many planned for 2020. Thank you to all those who have contributed to the success of these polo schools & initiatives, we commend your unwavering enthusiasm & commitment to polo development.

The APF was successful in sourcing IOC funding through FIP for junior polo development \$5000 total was received for four of the Junior Polo School events – Hawkesbury, Gunnedah, Forbes and Queensland. Interstate and international matches were included in the Downs PC QLD, and Hawkesbury NSW events, providing a real incentive for all our junior players and future champions.

Funding from the Mike Harley Fund distribution co-contributed with Windsor Polo Club to provide a Mike Harley Perpetual Trophy for Most Outstanding Player @ Windsor junior polo schools. Windsor was Mikes home club so a fitting trophy for them.

It has been a successful year for our Representative Australia teams with 7 matches & 5 wins for Australia. We thank all of the players for their time, commitment and steely determination, and we also thank the organisers, committees and horse lenders that make representative matches happen. With wins for Australia in

- the New Zealand 18g in Dec 2018,
- the Polo International against England – in both the test & womens match,
- the NZ schools match in the Hawksbury in April
- and the Midlands International South Africa 14g in May

our congratulations to all the teams involved, and also to the selection committee for their success rate!

The Australian Open will be hosted in QLD in 2020 & 2021, and in WA in 2022. We look forward to the great events they have planned.



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We have been working with NSWPA & Windsor Polo Club to secure tenure for the International moving forward to maximise opportunities for the event. Australia will again play England in a test match on Sunday 5th April 2020 – book your tickets now.

The Australian Sports Commission has recognised the APF as the peak body for the sport of Polo for 2019-2021, with the APF again meeting the best practice standards required for recognising sporting organisations.

We have facilitated the nomination of 5 local horses for inclusion in the Scone Horse Walk of Fame: Claret - From Ellerston, Cube - From Ellerston, Lizzie - From Ellerston, Haydon's Angel Jewel - From Peter and Ali Haydon, Kylie - From Ellerston and bred by David Archibald. We hope this initiative by the Upper Hunter Shire Council comes to fruition soon.

The appointment of Fiona Turney to strategy communications & events is a positive step towards developing these important areas, we welcome her fresh set of eyes and her commitment to developing Australian Polo.

As we focus on improving communication with our stakeholders, we have joined the world of social media with APF Facebook and Instagram accounts now in place. The number of followers is growing steadily on a weekly basis as we share information about polo events happening around the country.

The whole of sport strategy is developing and already progress has been made in many of our objectives. We thank all those that contributed to the polo survey, we value your feedback. We are currently collating all the information and will be sharing the findings with you shortly. As we look at ways of securing and strengthening polo in Australia in the future, we appreciate the role that you the members play and look forward to working with you going forward. Moving forward to 2020, and as we take into consideration the feedback received by the survey, umpire and coaching accreditation, horse welfare and polo development will all be key focus areas.

To my fellow board members, I would like to thank you all for your contributions to the APF over the past 12 months. Amanda, thank you for your diligence and hard work, we would be lost without you.

Tim Clarke

Chairman, Australian Polo Federation Ltd