

QPA Women's Carnival 2017



Grace Bredhauer, winner of the A Grade B&F award with Penny Kelly

By Penny Kelly

The QPA Women's carnival, held in conjunction with the Wandoan Carnival on 3rd and 4th June, was about giving every female player in Queensland an opportunity to participate in a supportive environment. Thank you to the Wandoan Club for allowing the QPA to use their carnival to host this event. Well done to all Wandoan members.

The 2017 Women's competition attracted 73 players and not just from Queensland. It was great to see ladies from NSW clubs as well. Players were randomly placed into 12 teams, resulting in a very close A, B and C Grade competition. A number of games were decided in extra time after playing 6 x 6min chukkas. The weekend also allowed 25 players to be named as provisional umpires, many being used on the weekend for the very first time with extra umpire coaching available.

As the purpose of this weekend is to develop women in polocrosse in Queensland, it was wonderful to see a number of recent and former Queensland representatives support the event and make a contribution to the weekend. It is very important that players understand that representing Queensland is not just about wearing a Maroon shirt at an interstate competition. Any contribution you can make to improve your sport has far more impact than most will ever understand.

This year the competition was attended by Alison Mathie, former Australian player and captain. Ally travelled from south of Sydney and spent most of Friday on a plane or in a vehicle to be with us for the weekend. Ally's invite to attend allowed her to play in a team, mentor umpires and players on and off the field as well as sharing her insights on the game during Saturday night's presentation. Along with Ally, Saturday night's function was supported by Kylie Gould, Wandoan Club member and Queensland representative



Rachel Doyle receiving a Sportsmanship Award from Penny Kelly

sharing her popcorn story and how her polocrosse career has developed. Sally Thompson, also addressed our gathering. Sally's family provides the QPA with a perpetual trophy for this event and Sally was kind enough to share some of her history, passion and insights with us. Personally, I feel anyone who attended Saturday night would have left with a few new ideas on why we play the best horse sport in the world.

During the weekend it was fabulous to see players interacting constantly, catching up on some old stories and discussing the days play. No doubt some new friendships have been made. The camaraderie in the polocrosse community is part of what makes our sport so special, it's not just about playing a game!

No event can be held without the support of sponsors, a huge thanks to Roma Tyre and Battery, Damien and Kylie Gould – Circle Y ASH, National Farmers Warehouse, Mrs Jenny Sillitoe – Rayjen ASH, Kelco Accountants and of course the QPA. Members I urge you to support the businesses that support us whenever possible. Thanks also to Gillian, who travelled out to Wandoan to assist with the weekend. This weekend takes many months to prepare and without the support offered through the QPA office I would have many more grey hairs.

Whilst the QPA Women's competition has been modified in recent years, events can always be improved. I encourage anyone who has a suggestion or idea on making the event bigger & better to come forward with your ideas. This is your opportunity to have input.

Finally, I would like to thank those who supported me in the lead up & during the event. Without this support, I am unable to make this event the sensation it is. Well done to everyone who made this weekend happen!

Cheers
Penny Kelly

A note from guest mentor coach Ally Mathie:

"I have always been a believer in putting back in the best I can, to a sport that has given me so much over the years.

I believe it's important to continue to develop and foster a positive culture between clubs, zones and states and an event like this provides a great platform for this to happen. It was wonderful to meet so many new women players from central west Queensland and to catch up with some familiar faces.

I was privileged to partake in the Saturday night guest speakers. I sat in amazement listening to Kylie Gould and Sally Thompson before I spoke. Every woman who attended would have taken away something to support themselves and to continue to develop in their chosen paths.

Thank you to the QPA and Penny Kelly for having me."

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QPA Women's Competition, a Rider's Perspective



A Grade Sybil Thompson Memorial Trophy Winners

By Stephanie Thorsby

I have been asked to put pen to paper with regards to the QPA Ladies Competition held at Wandoan this year.

As most of you know I have been out of the playing arena for three years and this was my second carnival back. Well what can I say other than I had the best weekend, with the best bunch of ladies - both in the team I played with and the teams I was against. To come back and have such an enjoyable weekend was fuel for my soul in continuing to play the game.

To start with our team was "supposed" to be in the B Grade. WELL that did not happen and we went on to play the other A Grade teams for the weekend. WOW this was so beyond me (and on a young horse only his second carnival ever) but the ladies in my team were amazing. I do believe in the A Grade there were three extra time games and we were in two of them. It goes to show that all the hard work and pulling out of hair by the person/people that put these teams together that it was oh so worth it. Each of the four teams in the A Grade were well and truly even and due credit needs to go to the organiser(s) of this event. The B Grade was also hotly contested with several close games.

I was given the 'job' of umpiring one of the C Grade ladies games



Ally Mathie speaking at the Saturday evening presentation

over the weekend and the senior ladies that mentored these teams were amazing and I am quite sure that the other ladies in these teams learnt heaps and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

I believe this is a great concept for ladies competition in Queensland and I'm sure many other ladies feel the same way. To be able to mentor other players to push them to be the best that they can be is a great feeling and I think this is a wonderful stepping stone to be able to achieve this.

Thank you so much Penny Kelly and your team for giving me this opportunity - it was a great weekend and I so cannot wait for the next one.

Stephanie Thorsby



Kylie Gould speaking at the Saturday evening presentation

Zach Cochrane

Z

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Sally Thompson speaking at the Saturday evening presentation

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Stanley Rivers Polocrosse Club Creates History at their 40th Anniversary Carnival

By Carolyn Line

Stanley River Polocrosse Club created history at their home carnival by making it into the Champagne Cup final for the first time since the Club was formed in 1977. Club President Clay Colless who played in the team that made the final was extremely proud of his team's accomplishment. The team, made up of himself, Richard Griffiths, John Donovan, Will Colless, Gemma Jorin and John Colless, really lifted to win 3 games to make the final. Clay, a founding member of the Club, said players who played against the Stanley Rivers 1 team and spectators watching the action commented that it was the best polocrosse that they had seen the Club play in at least 15 years. Unfortunately the fairytale ended with the Champagne Cup final when their rivals, Gold Coast 1, took out the victory after 4 chukkas with a final score of 21 to 11.

The weekend of action packed polocrosse was combined with a 40th Anniversary Reunion. Clay said the Club had put in a huge amount of time to organise the event. "We got a list together of 160 old members, tracked down 70 to contact them and had more than 50 turn up for the reunion," he said. "We had people travel from all over the place, including former Club President Tom Haskins who flew from Dysart just for event."

Stanley Rivers Polocrosse Club has been some tough years with floods and bad economic times taking a toll on the Club but their enthusiasm and dedication to the Aussie made sport has seen them battle through to come out stronger. Clay said the Club has always had a great base of Social Members and is currently rebuilding it's Playing Membership. "Two years ago, we had just 11 Playing Members which isn't even 2 full teams. This Year we are fielding 4.5 teams," said Clay.



Photo by Carolyn Line

Champagne Cup Runners Up Home Club Stanley Rivers

The Club is a strong family based Club with generations of families having played there. Clay said as a Foundation Member to have his kids playing alongside him was a great honour and something which he is very proud of. "Now we have a two month old grandchild so in 10 years at the 50th Anniversary Carnival, I hope to still be playing with my boys and grandkids," he said.



John Colless carrying the ball for Stanley River

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**Drawn: Cunningham Polocrosse Carnival –
Sunday 13th August 2017 at 2pm.**

Calliope Polocrosse Club's Focus on Juniors



Calliope's Sam Wriede



Yarrod Vaughan - Best and Fairest Mens Player



Ian Stewart carrying the ball for Calliope

Calliope Polocrosse Club held our annual carnival on 27th and 28th May. The Rayment Excavations Night Chukka competition held on Saturday evening was a thrilling success drawing great crowd numbers to watch more action packed polocrosse.

On a Club level, Calliope Polocrosse Club recognises that juniors are our future champions so we have had a strong focus on developing junior players for 2017. In 2016 we had just 1 sub junior which has increased to 9 junior and sub juniors this year so far.



Three of the new Juniors Sarah Elliott, Rauri Elliott and Chloe Frear

Photos by Katrina Elliott Photography

Photo by Katrina Elliott Photography

Perfect Weather Conditions for Killarney's 61st Polocrosse Carnival

By Joyce McIntosh

The sound of thundering hooves echoed around the rolling foothills of Killarney in May as competitors from all over Queensland and down into New South Wales took to the field to battle for club pride at our 61st annual Polocrosse carnival. The weather behaved itself and turned on a great weekend. A total of 35 teams travelled from as far afield as Guyra, Inverell, Longreach, and many places in-between playing in A Grade to E Grade and Juniors. Congratulations to all the winners and runners up in all the grades.

The A grade final was fiercely contested by Tansey 1 and Gold Coast 1. Tansey 1 came up victorious, beating Gold Coast by 9 goals with a final score of 21 to 12. Tansey 2 were the Beaten Team in A Grade and Tansey player Shane Gehrke picked up another award this season for Best Horse and Rider in A Grade.

In the B Grade, New South Wales teams Inverell and Guyra went head to head with Inverell beating Guyra 17 to 14 in a close game. Jock Grills from Guyra was awarded Best Horse and Rider.

Killarney Club fielded one team in the E Grade with us having 2 wins and 2 loses for the weekend.

3 Junior teams contested the younger division with Guyra Juniors coming out victorious over strong Queensland side Cunningham. The Junior Encouragement (Patrons Trophy) was awarded to Killarney player Jacinta Sillis for the second year running by long time Club member Ross Grayson.



Team Killarney

Congratulations also to Ross Grayson on being awarded life membership to Killarney Polocrosse Club.

Once again we would like to thank all our great sponsors of this year's carnival Killarney Co-Op, Killarney Hotel, Killarney Veterinary Surgery, Warwick Credit Union, Dillions Stock horses, Killarney Butchery, GC Restoration, Mick Cleeland Excavations, Wickham Farms, Boonah Cabinet makers, Hampton and Harlow Equestrian and Farmcraft CRT rural stores.

Photo by Jane McGrath



It is Easy to Keep Family and Friends in the Polocrosse Loop!

Thank you for all the positive comments about our exciting new Behind The Goal Post eNews. The newsletter was initially developed to be sent to QPA members but we have received a lot of requests to add non member emails so family and friends can be kept in the loop about polocrosse. Please contact the QPA office via email poloxqld@bigpond.net.au or call 07 4632 3045 to have your family and friends email addresses added to receive future action packed editions of Behind The Goal Post eNews.



New Zealand comes to Tambo

By Rachael Sargood

On 20th and 21st May this year, Tambo hosted the 2017 Agrismart/Specialist Sales New Zealand Challenge in conjunction with the 3 Rivers Helicopters Annual Carnival and what a weekend!!!

The Tambo Club sponsored a team of New Zealand's best players to come to their Annual Carnival to take on the best clubs in Queensland. The players arrived on Wednesday night after a long trip from the Brisbane airport with our fabulous Silver sponsor, Paul Schneider from Auswest Brokers, picking them up and ferrying them to Tambo.

Thursday meant a working bee for the Kiwi team as we put them to work. They headed out 70 kms from Tambo to load a trailer load of panels for the carnival. Then back to trial their horses for the weekend.

We had a Meet and Greet on Thursday night at the Tambo Tavern, being an opportunity for everyone to meet the players as well as our sponsors for the weekend. This finished with 15ml of rain falling on the rooftops. The rain was perfect as it settled the dust for the weekend and saved us using a water truck!

The weekend kicked off with 22 senior teams and 2 junior teams as well as our mini juniors. We lost

a couple of teams due to the rain, however, we also gained a couple due to Alton Downs being postponed. Teams from the South East attended being Warwick, Toowoomba, Cunningham and Gold Coast as well as our usual support from Leichhardt, Capricornia and Outback zones. NZ played a hard game on Saturday morning against Gold Coast/Cunningham and were able to fight their way to the Challenge Grade by 1 goal! They then proceeded to play hard fought games all weekend but were defeated by our very own! Warwick 1 came out victors with Wandoan 1 Runners up.

In our Bob Sargood A Grade, Tambo 1 came out victorious against Bauhinia 1 by 1 goal in the dying minutes of the last chukka, much to the excitement of the large local crowd! Saturday night saw our Silver Sponsor, Scott Keogh, who travelled out with his stallion Turnbull's Elmo, provide the crowd with some amazing horsemanship skills with a show under lights. This was enjoyed by all.

Sunday saw the official opening of our new toilet/shower block by our Mayor, Andrew Martin. The Blackall Tambo Regional Council were fully committed to us running a large event ensuring that the new toilet/shower block was built in record time – 3 months! Thank you to them for their continued support to our Club. Due to

us running a larger carnival, the Council is now committed to providing powered sites for next year as well as improvements to our Catering Shed.

After a celebratory evening on Sunday night, the weary NZ players made the 10 hour journey back to Brisbane to await their flight home.

Tambo Polocrosse Club would like to thank all of our sponsors for making the weekend a success. Gold Sponsors Agrismart, Specialist Sales and Robyn Sargood. Silver Sponsors Auswest Brokers and Scott Keogh Horsemanship. Bronze Sponsors Landmark, Blackall Tambo Regional Council, Malboona Droughtmasters, Queensland Polocrosse Association and Gerard Johnson Transport. Thank you also to our Carnival sponsors, who were many! Without you, we wouldn't survive!

We would also like to make a special mention to the horse donors who provided horses to the Kiwis to play. It is such a big ask of people to donate their horses to the event. So thank you to Bill and Shelly Taylor, Boyd Webb, Gordon Moloney, Jacob and Aimee Ross, Gus and Donna Deane, Tammy Johnson, Terri Ann Eckel, Clayton and Jackie Sargood and Pete and Netta Robertson.

Photo by Anne-Maree Lloyd Photography



Roma 1 Playing New Zealand



New Zealand Team from Putaruru-Tirau Polocrosse Club



Sam Sargood playing for Tambo with the ball

Photo by Anne-Maree Lloyd Photography

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The QPA presents to you an outstanding opportunity for your organisation to promote its products and services to a wide audience of potential customers in our 2017 Behind The Goal Post eNews. The eNews is emailed out monthly during the polocrosse season to all QPA members. Plus the action packed electronic newsletter is building a large following of non-members who are interested in polocrosse so the numbers of emails sent out is increasing each month. Each month provides an area for up to 3 companies advertise their business with a banner advertisement. The banner, approximately 50mm HIGH x 190mm WIDE, will be displayed at the bottom of one of the eNews pages for maximum exposure. For this strategic investment in marketing for your business, you will only pay \$175 + GST. This super low price includes your advert being professionally prepared by a graphic artist. All you need to provide is a photo or two and the required wording. If you already have a graphic artist and are able to provide finished artwork, pay only \$100 + GST for the space only. The adverts need to be supplied as a High Resolution (300 dpi) PDF. All fonts must be outlined, all colours CMYK, and flattened transparencies. Or it can be supplied as a 300 resolution (dpi) CMYK JPG.

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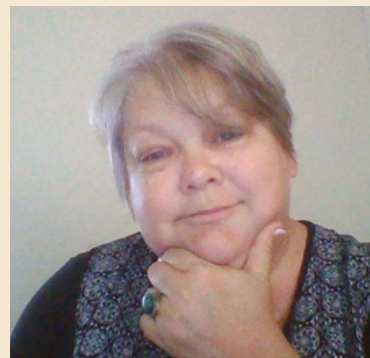


Although team numbers have been down at Quilpie Polocrosse Club, baby numbers are up, with Tom and Rachael McWaters welcoming baby boy Gus, and Russell McWaters and Kerri Thompson adding baby girl Bailey to the polocrosse population.



Congratulations to Chantel Cook from the Pyramid Polocrosse Club and partner Jaiden Barnes for tying the knot. Welcome to the extended Polocrosse family Jaiden. Our Club wishes them both a bright and happy future together.

13/5/2017 saw the passing of Tansey Polocrosse Club member in Ian Burns 'Burnsy', Husband to Jo, Father to Jamie, Kritta, Ashley and Bobbi and Pop to Jake and Pete. Burnsy was a quiet and passionate man, whose family was his pride. His memory will live on through the love he shared with his beautiful family and in his horses in which he took such great pride.



The Bauhinia Polocrosse Club was saddened on the passing of past member and PR Officer extraordinaire JULIE GIOVANNINI (nee CLAIR) on the 16th of June 2017.

Ian Burns, "Burnsy"



By Bobbi Burns

A polocrosse dad is a unique breed and I am certain that I had the best. Dad only ever played a handful of games in the 13 years he was involved in Polocrosse, the rest of the time he paced the backline and circled the D with our horses in tow. But he didn't just play the role of a father, he was a coach, a mentor, a supporter and easily my biggest influence. Dad's passion for polocrosse and love for the Tansey Polocrosse Club were unmeasurable. A passion that started by no more than a love for horses and wanting the best life for his kids. Dad always provided us with the best of horses, he took great pride in them. He was always supportive and encouraging, to everyone and anyone. Many people often said, "in another life, I'd like to come back as one of the Burns sisters, so my dad can work my horse, feed it, rug it and get it ready, all I have to do is turn up and play". They weren't far from it! He would always have us ready 2 rounds early, even if we had to play first round! We are so lucky to have had a dad & mum that didn't play but provided so much for us. So selfless, they just loved watching their girls play polocrosse. Dad, thank you for giving me a passion for such a great sport. Thank you for keeping me grounded and giving me every opportunity! Kids could only ever dream of having a dad like you.

