

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

POLOCROSSE VICTORIA 2011

As President, it is with great pleasure that I report on the last 12 months of polocrosse in Victoria.

The year has brought us a couple of very sad occasions with the sudden passing of Gerard Watt, a man highly regarded as a husband and father, player, coach, umpire, selector, horseman and a friend, in the true sense of the word. Our beloved Patron of Polocrosse Victoria Mr Bill Roycroft passed away a few months ago and I'd like to note that Bill rang me after he had attended the Ballarat Nationals for a day and he remarked how much the horses and horsemanship have come long way since his day and how the game had become so skilful, great praise from such a legendary horseman and sportsman. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of these wonderful men.

Throughout the year there have been some interstate competitions such as the Barastoc Series in Warwick, Victoria fielded an Under 21 Open Boys that played very well and resulted in being the "Runners Up" for that competition. The encouraging part about that was all the positive feedback received from some of the stalwarts of polocrosse about how we looked in good shape if that was any indication of future teams coming from Victoria.

Our Under 16 Junior Open Girls, well what can you say except they "did us very proud" (convincingly) at both the Darwin Show and the Adelaide Show. Great effort especially the Darwin team to arrive there and play borrowed horses with short preparation time, nevertheless, all Players, Coaches and Managers (and all the Mums and Dads) should be very proud as there has been nothing but good reports from both States about how well all the Victorian girls played.

Over the water, our boys came home with the Bass Strait Cup this year after winning against Tasmania in a 25 point team competition held over a weekend. The next Bass Strait Cup will be held in Victoria in the 2013 season. Congratulations to the Under 21 Boys, the Under 16 Girls and the Bass Strait Team for your commitment to representing Victoria in Polocrosse.

The Victorian Squads are up and running with 2 (non horse) practice days held as part of the fitness and team building program, it's only early days and as we agreed as a State we need to be proactive and start building on these initiatives to improve the level of Polocrosse in Victoria.

From where I am sitting there has definitely been some great progress and I measure that progress not so much on the scoreboard but more on the number of people coming forward to help our game. As well as the Coaches and Managers -the supporters, Mums and Dads and all the volunteers that lend a hand are all greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the Polocrosse Victoria Committee for their help and effort, a huge thank you to Annemaree Jolly who is resigning from the role as State Secretary, Annemaree has been a tremendous support for the members of Victoria over the years.

Thank you to all Members and have a great Christmas,

Mick Jarmain

