

2020

Annual Report

AUSTRALIAN CURLING FEDERATION



Australian Curling Federation

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About Us

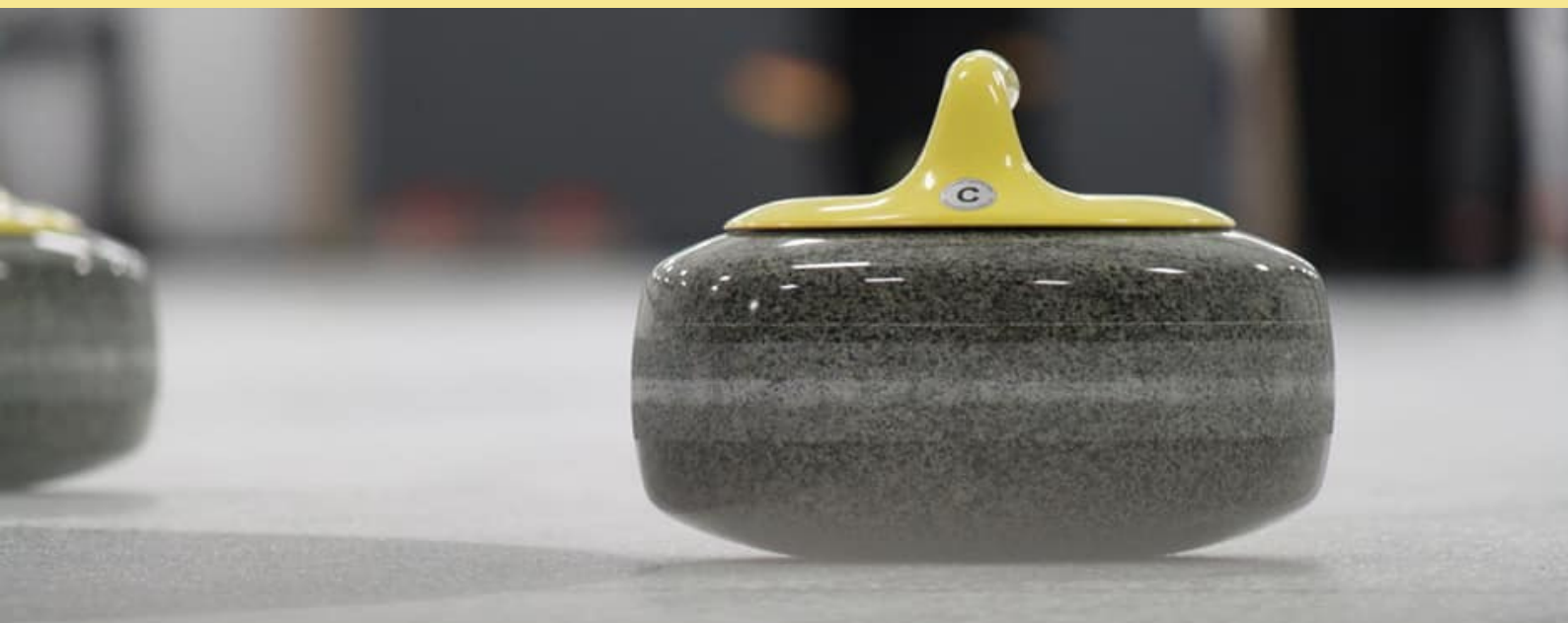
HISTORY OF CURLING IN AUSTRALIA

The first curling club in Australia formed in 1933 in Melbourne. Sir Norman Brooks – Wimbledon winner in 1907 and 1914, AFL footballer and Australian Golf Open winner – was the first President. The club was subsequently disbanded in 1939. In 1984, curling reappeared in Australia and the Australian Curling Association formed international links with the International Curling Federation (now the World Curling Federation) in 1986.

In 1990, Australia first competed internationally in Oslo, Norway. The Australian Curling Federation (ACF) was formed in 1993 to be the national governing body for the sport in Australia. James Oastler was the inaugural president of the Federation which had three state members: New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria.

The initial challenge for the ACF was to host the third Pacific Curling Championships in 1993 for which reconditioned stones were obtained on lease from the World Curling Federation. Competitors from New Zealand, Japan and Australia included men's and women's teams from all three countries. Since that time the South Australian member association has closed and two new member associations joined; the Queensland Curling Association was formed in 2005 and Curling WA was formed in 2014.

Today the ACF continues with its initial goal of supporting the state members and liaising with international bodies in an effort to propel the sport towards gaining national and international recognition.



About Us

OUR MISSION

The Australian Curling Federation leads, develops, and promotes the sport of curling in Australia. We enable and facilitate Australian athletes to achieve sustained competitive excellence in international competitions including World Championship and the Olympic Winter Games whilst demonstrating the spirit of Curling.

OUR VISION

Australia would be a better place if there were more curlers.

OUR VALUES AND BEHAVIOURS

Act with **INTEGRITY**

EXCELLENCE on and off the ice

We are **INCLUSIVE** and show respect

We demonstrate the highest standards of **FAIR PLAY**

Fuel the **PASSION**

Photo © Richard Gray



Strategic Priorities

#1 LIFELONG PARTICIPATION

People can access opportunities to be involved in curling in Australia at any time of their life.

- Support the states to expand the range of entry points into the ACF and commit to a welcoming, friendly and inclusive environment for everyone.
- Develop junior programs and implement retention strategies.
- Membership education and promotion.
- Develop non-player (coach, umpire, administrator) participation initiatives.



Photo © Céline Stucki

#2 HIGH PERFORMANCE

A clear & compelling talent pathway that encourages & supports high performance athlete development.

- Support the states to expand the range of entry points into the ACF and commit to a welcoming, friendly and inclusive environment for everyone.
- Develop junior programs and implement retention strategies.
- Membership education and promotion.
- Develop non-player (coach, umpire, administrator) participation

Strategic Priorities

#3 GOOD GOVERNANCE

Committed to best practice governance.

- Support the states to expand the range of entry points into the ACF and commit to a welcoming, friendly and inclusive environment for everyone.
- Develop junior programs and implement retention strategies.
- Membership education and promotion.
- Develop non-player (coach, umpire, administrator) participation initiatives.



2019 Strategic Planning Meeting (L to R): Hugh Millikin, Ian Palangio, Dustin Armstrong, Dean Hewitt, Steve Johns, Jim Hansen, Kim Forge

#4 THE BUSINESS OF CURLING

Provide leadership from every position; foster stakeholder relationships, collaborate & build trust.

- Develop and implement a marketing and communications strategy to promote the sport, actively engage with members and stakeholders, and provide and encourage honest, transparent communication at appropriate times (face-to-face, written, verbal, digital).
- Create a working group tasked with the development of a sustainable business model and exploration of a national facilities strategy.
- Provide and administer professionally the annual Curling National Championships and selection trials.

President's Report

Dear Members,

Curling continues to grow within Australia and throughout the world, there are now 64 countries in the WCF World Curling family including nations from Africa, the middle east and South America.

The ACF executive membership changed this year with Kim Forge serving as President, Laurie Weeden Vice-President, Steve Johns (NSW) and Elliott Douglas (WA), Michelle Zintschenko (Vic) and Dave Thomas (Qld). Robert Gagnon filled the role of treasurer and Lyn Gill is the secretary.

Curling is played in three states currently Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia.

We continue to work closely with Nikki Burger from the OWIA with our strategic plan and high performance planning. In early May 2020, Kim Forge attended the AOC AGM virtually. Kim attended the most recent AGM virtually earlier this month.

This year's DAP committee used a substantial portion of the allocated \$12000, going to all three active curling states. Many states have applied for and were successful in obtaining state specific grants, some related to COIVD recovery stimulus to help with marketing, branding and equipment replacement.

The global pandemic caused by COVID-19 has forced Australia to cancel all national on-ice events, however the executive has been busier than ever working on other projects in an effort to be ready to return to curling better than ever.

On 1st September the ACF executive conducted a review of the Strategic plan. Many milestones were achieved within our 4 strategic priorities this year. I have included at least one notable achievement for each.

1. Lifelong participation –A Website calendar was created to capture all curling activities happening within Australia improving engagement from membership and potential members (range of entry points). Official and coach pathway documents were developed as a non-player participation initiatives. A wheelchair curling sub-committee has been established and they have been successful in obtaining grants for delivery sticks and marketing.

President's Report

2. High performance – Olympic winter games pathway and High performance planning continue with the Olympic Winter Institute. Player performance pathways 2021 Information session was held – Road to the Olympics presented to all States (3 members each) and ACF Executive to provide clarification around the Qualification process and multi-tiered stakeholders.

3. Good governance – The ACF achieved Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) recognition for next three years by ensuring the ACF met compliance requirements involving a new Child Safe Framework, Illicit Sports Policy and Code of Conduct including updates to the Member Protection Policy. Laurie continued the great work Ian Palangio had done on the website by creating new pages to meet SIA compliance requirements with a resources section containing a dedicated Policies and Documents, Sport Integrity and Child Safe webpages. An entirely new results section has been added to the website for all disciplines in Nationals, Pacific's and World events with overall easier navigation throughout the website. Historical curling archives were kindly passed on from Jim Oastler. A huge effort and an enormous amount of volunteer time has gone into this – thank you Laurie. Kim completed the Australian Institute of Company directors short course – developed for the Australian Olympic Committee – Governance Foundations for Not for Profit Directors in September.

4. The business of curling – website is current as mentioned. Many pitches for facilities have been made to government bodies and potential investors in Victoria and Western Australia. New letterhead templates have been created and all documents updated to ensure consistent branding. Communication messages have been improved through Facebook often linking members back to the website for documents and further information. The Strategic Plan 1-page document was created to easily communicate the Vision, Mission and Priorities.

The 9th annual World Curling Federation Congress and AGM was held virtually this year in September. John Anderson remains an active member of the finance commission of the WCF and attended congress as the male representative. Australia is well positioned on the WCF with four positions of stature, including Hugh Millikin as the Vice President (Pacific Asia), Kim Forge on the Athlete Commission and John Anderson on the Finance Commission. This year Kim was nominated by the WCF Athlete Commission to be their appointment to the newly formed WCF nominations committee.

President's Report

In November of 2020 we lost Ian Palangio after his lengthy illness. Ian was a long time national athlete, NSW state representative and past Vice-President of the ACF for many years. He is sadly missed by all of us.

Carlee Millikin was awarded a partial scholarship by the WCF for the Postgraduate Certificate "International Sports Management" developed in conjunction with the University of London and Kim Forge was selected as the lone Australian recipient for the MEMOS – International Olympic Committee Executive Masters in Sport Organisation Management program – which was delayed by Covid and to start in September.

The ACF would like to acknowledge BMD providing \$1500 for the development of a brochure to help recruit wheelchair curlers. BMD is a national group of companies engaged in engineering design, construction and land development for clients and partners in the urban development, transport infrastructure and resources and energy sectors. Thank you to the Wheelchair Committee who are currently working on this project. All states will benefit from the creation of this brochure and when States are able to launch Come and Try events with Wheelchair curlers BMD will coordinate personnel to attend the events.

This year the Athlete Commission met in March and April. As the Athlete Commission is in its infancy the ACF will be providing a roadmap to assist the committee as they establish operating guidelines and a process to move from the initial appointment of Athletes to the AC to the election of Athletes to the Commission.

Thank you to the State representatives and members at the ACF for their efforts. Special thank you to Rob Gagnon who retires from his duties as treasurer after the AGM.



Kim Forge
President
Australian Curling Federation



WCF Report

As everyone can imagine this has been a very dynamic year or so for the WCF. With the cancellation of various events it has put considerable pressure on the key tournaments that will qualify athletes for the 2022 OWG. There was a great effort by Curling Canada and all their partners to make the bubble work in Calgary and qualify the first 6 teams from the MWCC and WWCC. The MD championship in Aberdeen was touch and go for quite a while but again through significant effort it will qualify teams directly to the 2022 OWG.

The locations and dates for the Pre-OQE and OQE should be announced in the coming weeks.

During the pandemic, the WCF and staff have been very busy. We have two major projects underway that will impact the sport in a significant way over the next decade.

1. MTV – Maximizing the value. We are looking at all aspects of the game; number of ends, pace of play, rules and new concepts. We have been surveying the members and all interested parties to get feedback and input to the process.

2. SRG – Structural Review Group. After creating the WCF forward plan last year, the next step is to look at what changes need to be made to the WCF. Nomination process, elections, board make-up are a few of the issues. The proposals will be brought to the AGM for voting.

As part of the Competitions and Rules commission proposed items there are the usual minor rule book changes but the big issue is the proposal to amalgamate the Pacific-Asia Zone and the Americas Zone to reduce the zones to 2 from 3. The number of teams at the WWCC & WMCC would remain at 13 but the qualification of teams will be changed with two proposals being put forward. The C&R is very open to suggestions/comments from MAs or curling supporters. We accept any input and evaluate the ideas to see if they can/should be investigated further.

Hugh Millikin

*Vice President / Pacific-Asia Chair / Competitions and Rules Commission
World Curling Federation*



Finance Report

2020 Yearly Financial Totals	\$AUD
Opening Cash position 1 Jan 2020	\$23756.31
Total 2020 cash income	\$6687.09
Total 2020 cash outgoing	\$23048.32
2020 Profit (Loss)	(\$16361.23)
Total cash on hand 31 Dec 2020 (from Bank Statements)	\$7395.08
Opening Cash position 1 Jan 2020 + 2020 Profit (Loss)	\$7395.08
Non-cash ACF owned assets (Ice Boss)	\$10,000 USD (\$13157.89 AUD)
Total ACF Assets as of 31 Dec 2020	\$20552.97AUD

USD to
AUD
conversion
at .76 as of
8 Apr 2021

The current status of the bank accounts has been circulated to all members. As in the past few years, this financial year follows the calendar year so runs from January to December 2020.

The activities on all bank accounts are shown above.

At 31 December we had no outstanding debtors.

Income over the course of 2020 consisted of State membership dues and insurance payments, World Curling Federation (WCF) Development and Assistance Programme (DAP) funds, Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) funding and bank interest.

Expenses related to ACF insurance costs, DAP funds, Victorian Consumer Affairs, WCF membership fees, AOC support for High Performance development and general administration costs (postage, etc). It was a typical year for the ACF.

Rob Gagnon
Treasurer / Australian Curling Federation



Executive Board

2020/2021 Curling Season

President Kim Forge (Signatory)

Vice-President Laurie Weeden (Signatory)

Secretary Lyn Gill

Treasurer Rob Gagnon (Signatory)

State Representatives:

NSW Representative Steve Johns

QLD Representative Dave Thomas

VIC Representative Michelle Zintschenko

WA Representative Elliott Douglas

All Executive Board members are volunteers at both the National and State levels.

AS REPORTED AT 2020 AGM ON 25 MAY 2021

	NSW	QLD	VIC	WA
Number of Curlers	7	29	69	62
President/Chairman	Steve Johns	Jim Hansen	Bruce Freshwater	Andrew Walker
Vice-President	Matt Millikin	Jill Butler	Damien Brain	Hal Jenkins
Treasurer	Lisa Bow	Dave Imlah	Gerald Chick	Adrienne Kennedy
Secretary	Lisa Bow	Kylie Sheehan	Jillian Burkett	Keswick Pearson
Special Projects	Carlee Millikin	n/a	n/a	n/a
Date of Last AGM	5 May 2021	16 May 2020	17 May 2021	22 nd Nov 2020

International Representation

Mixed Doubles WORLD CURLING TOUR 2020

As part of the lead up to the 2020 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships, Australia's elite Mixed Doubles team of Tahli Gill and Dean Hewitt competed in the Canadian portion of the World Curling Tour. The team finished with a silver medal at the Sutherland Mixed Doubles Classic in Saskatoon, Canada before being called back to Australia due to the government travel restrictions implemented in March 2020. Subsequent tour events and World Championship events were cancelled in 2020 due to the Pandemic.



Tahli Gill and Dean Hewitt



Qualico Mixed Doubles Classic, Banff, Canada



Photo © Howard Nason

International Representation

World Qualification Event

LOHJA, FINLAND

The 2019 Australian National Women's team competed in the World Qualification Event (WQE) in January 2020 in an effort to qualify as one of the last two women's teams for the subsequent 13-team 2020 World Curling Championships to be held later in the season. The team finished 7th out of 8 teams with a 1-6 record. This marks the first time a National Women's team has competed in a WQE.



L to R: Jennifer Westhagen, Lauren Wagner, Carlee Millikin (at back) and Kristen Tsourlenes Photo © Tom Rowland

The Year In News...

13-18 January 2020 – Australian Women's Team Compete in World Qualification Event

The Australian National Women's Team are currently in Finland competing in the World Qualification Event being held for Women and Men's teams seeking qualification to the World Curling Championships. The purpose of this competition is to qualify the last two women's and two men's teams for the subsequent 13-team World Curling Championships, later held in Lohja, Finland. The event will qualify teams for the World Curling Championship 2020 in Prince George, British Columbia (14-22 March) and the LGT World Curling Championship 2020 in Glasgow, Scotland (28 March - 5 April) in Paajanen.



10 February 2020 – National Mixed Doubles Team Gill/Hewitt win Silver

National Mixed Doubles Team Gill/Hewitt have just finished the final competition on their Mixed Doubles World Curling Tour in Canada with a silver medal at the Sutherland Mixed Doubles Classic in Saskatoon, Canada. The team comprised of Tahli Gill (Qld) and Dean Hewitt (Vic) have been travelling through Canada for the past few weeks. This concludes the Canadian competitions in the lead up to the 2020 World Mixed Doubles Championships in Kelowna, British Columbia in April.

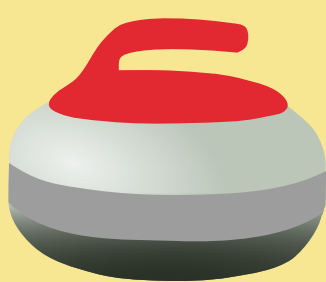
18 February 2020 – Emil Cooper in Russia on Sports Media Trainee Opportunity at World Junior Curling Championships, Russia

National Junior Men's Team player, Emil Cooper (Qld), is currently in Krasnoyarsk, Russia photographing the World Junior Curling Championship as part of the World Curling Federation's Sports Media Trainee Programme. This is the seventh year of the programme and this season (2019-2020) six students from six different countries are attending three different events (1 student photographer and 1 student journalist per event) to gain first-hand experience working in a fast-paced media team at international curling events. They will be mentored by professionals in the field. Emil is studying Bachelor of Design (International) Major in Landscape Architecture in Brisbane. Catch up on Emil Cooper's final media blog on his Sports Media Trainee opportunity.



7 May 2020 – All Australian Curling National Championships Cancelled for 2020 Season

As you know, the current worldwide situation due to COVID-19, including Australian state and territory border restrictions, business closures and social distancing requirements, have impacted the Australian Curling Federation's ability to adequately plan and host National Championships on dedicated curling facilities this calendar year. As a result, the Australian National Championships (ACF) must provide an alternative to the Australian National Championships in order to appoint Australian representatives to the 2021 World Curling Federation (WCF) sanctioned event.



11 June 2020 – Australian Umpire, Sandy Gagnon, To Umpire at Olympic Winter Games 2022

The World Curling Federation announced today the list of International Technical Officials for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 and Australian, Sandy Gagnon (Vic), has been named as one of the Game Umpires – a first for Australia. [Read more...](#)



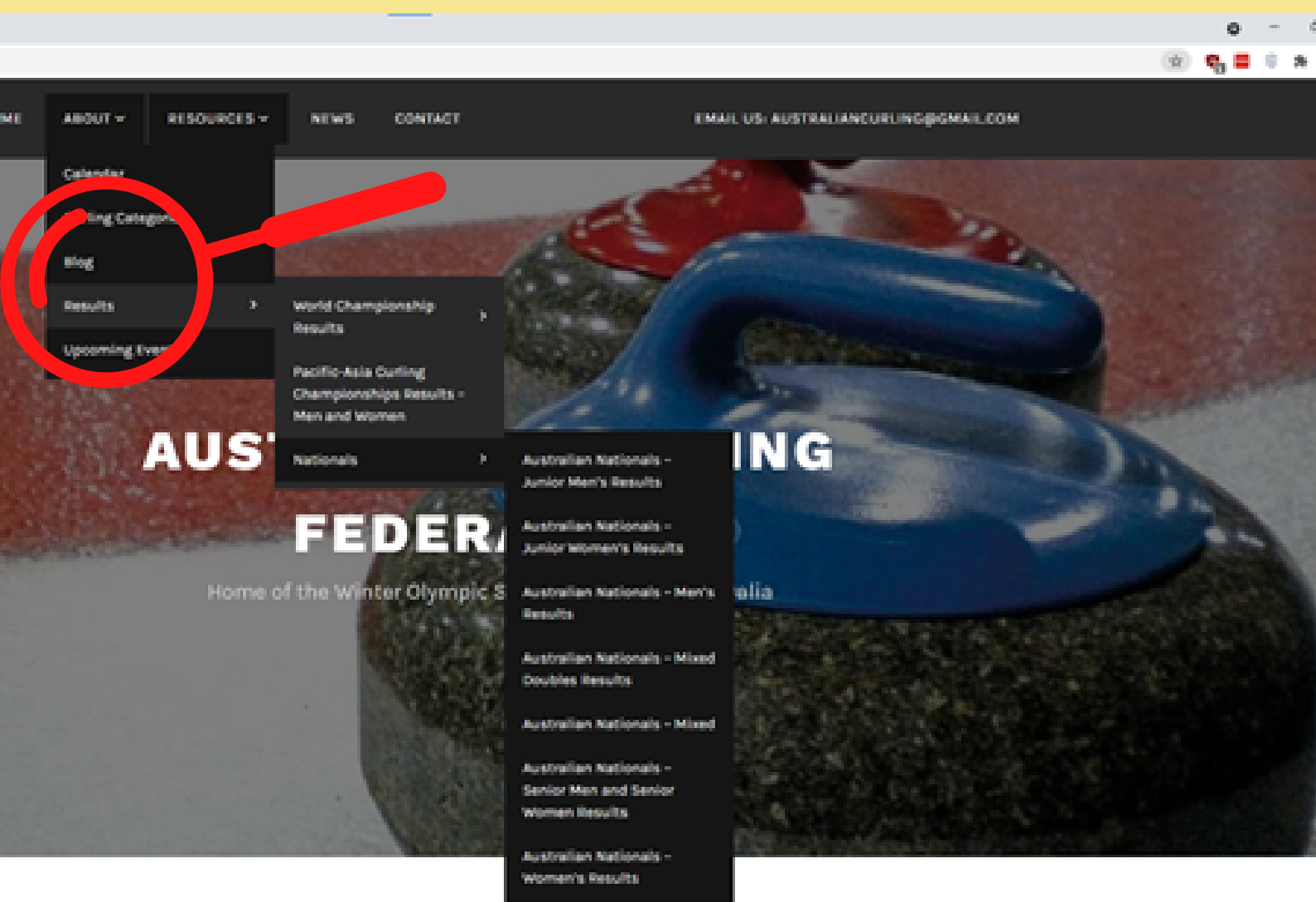
Resources

Website Updates

HISTORICAL RESULTS

As part of Sport Australia's recognition criteria for all National Sporting Organisations, a series of updates were made to the Australian Curling Federation website to ensure compliance. From April 2020, the updated website offers more selection, easier access to documents and policies, a calendar of events, news, a live Facebook feed, sport integrity information, safe sport content, and comprehensive results sorted by:

- World Championship Results
- Pacific-Asia Curling Championships, and
- Nationals.

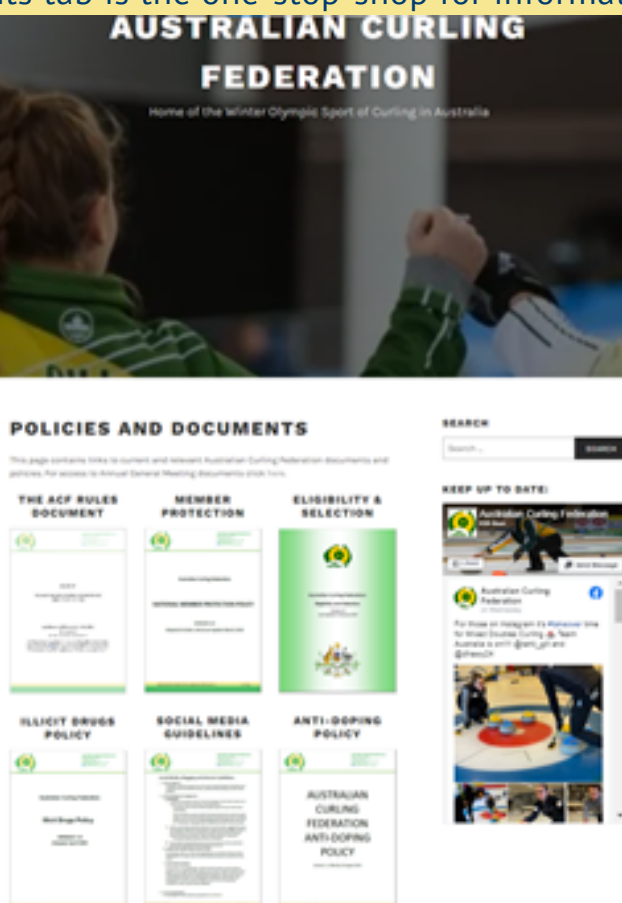


Resources

Policies and Documents

SIMPLIFIED ACCESS

Under the resources tab at the top of the website there are three options and the Policies and Documents tab is the one-stop-shop for information.



Sport Integrity

EVERYONE IS RESPONSIBLE

All members, participants and non-participants in the sport of Curling are bound by National anti-doping rules. This new page on the website, which is found under the resources tab, features critical information around education, awareness and reporting integrity issues.



Vale Ian Palangio



Ian Palangio (1972-2020)

The Australian Curling family mourns the loss of Ian Palangio, a long-time National Athlete and Executive member for the Australian Curling Federation. Ian wore 'lucky number' 13 for the Rock Wallabies, the Men's National team, and began representing Australia at the Pacific Curling Championships in 2001. Nicknamed "Ice Nut", Ian logged a total of 153 Pacific-Asia Championship Curling games over 16 years, winning 2 Gold medals along the way. Ian went on to represent Australia at the World Men's Curling Championships (WMCC) 4 times narrowly missing out on Olympic qualification in 2010. When writing a World Curling Championships bio he once stated the 2005 WMCC was his most memorable sporting achievement.

In more recent years Ian added two Curling disciplines to his already full list of Curling accomplishments competing in Mixed Doubles and Mixed Curling. With his family cheering him on in the stands, Ian was the flag bearer at the 2014 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships (WMDCC) leading Australian teams out for the opening ceremony in Dumfries, Scotland. He competed in Mixed Doubles for 5 years representing Australia again at the 2016 WMDCC.

Always keen to Curl, Ian competed in the first ever World Mixed Curling Championships (2015). In another 'first', Ian found himself competing with his Men's team in the first World Qualification Event held in Naseby, New Zealand – familiar 'local' southern hemisphere territory. With an impressive 224 international championship games under his belt Ian was a true competitor and gentleman of the game – always known for acknowledging good shots from opponents and teammates – embodying the Spirit of Curling in its truest form.

Ian often threw last stones always rising to the challenge of the pressure of these shots with his quiet focus and nerves of steel. He was appreciated for his humour and quick wit. He exuded confidence and positivity lifting up teammates and competitors alike.

At a state and national level, Ian was involved in the NSW State Representative role (2003-7, 2010-2015, Vice-President of Australian Curling Federation (2016-2020) , and Australian Pacific-Asia Representative. He actively served on committees giving up vast amounts of personal time to create, launch and maintain the Australian Curling Federation (ACF) website and Facebook page. The ACF relied on Ian's technical abilities to set up regular Executive meetings and organise AGM 'cloud' meetings and he also served on different committees, in particular the Nationals Committee and the Development Assistance Programme Committee for Australia.

Acknowledgements

With thanks to the World Curling Federation Development Assistance Programme that supports many development projects throughout Australia each year.



Special acknowledgement to BMD for their support of wheelchair curling development.

BMD is a national group of companies engaged in engineering design, construction and land development for clients and partners in the urban development, transport infrastructure and resources and energy sectors. Since 1979, BMD has employed a relationship based business model founded on certainty, collaboration and performance. With more than 1,700 staff throughout Australia, BMD has the resources and experience to deliver projects ranging in size from \$1 million to over \$1 billion.

