



2021 Annual Report

Australian Curling Federation



Australian Curling Federation

ABN: 77 047-617-608

australiancurling@gmail.com

www.curling.org.au

[@AustralianCurlingFederation](https://www.facebook.com/AustralianCurlingFederation)

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Photo © Steve Seixeiro



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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



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.



Vision

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



Values

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**



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.



#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



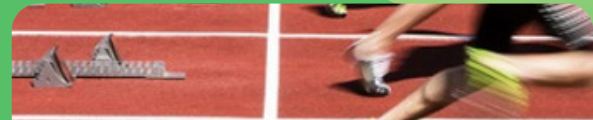


Strategic Priorities

#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.



Anti-Doping Fundamentals Course (formerly Level 1)

Comprehensive anti-doping education designed for all athletes and support

#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,

Active curling paused for much of the world this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Regular curling was able to continue periodically in Western Australia and Queensland with certain protocols and procedures in place, but hosting our regular championship events in Naseby was not possible. Even so, our quest for an Olympic berth continued and the World Curling Federation family grew from 64 countries to 67.

The ACF executive membership changed slightly this year. Kim Forge served as President, Laurie Weeden Vice-President, Steve Johns (NSW) and Elliott Douglas (WA), Michelle Zintschenko (Vic) and Dave Thomas (Qld) were state representatives. Robert Gagnon retired from the role of treasurer and Edwin Wan has filled his vacancy. Lyn Gill is the secretary.

Curling is played in three states, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia. We continued to work on our strategic plan and high-performance planning during these unprecedented times. In early May 2021, Kim Forge attended the AOC AGM virtually. This year's DAP committee used a substantial portion of the allocated \$12000 US going to all three active curling states.

Many pitches for facilities have been made to government bodies and potential investors in Victoria, South Australia, Canberra and Western Australia. We continue to grow our digital audience by creating regular branded content on Facebook and Instagram (account created in Oct 2021). Communication messages have been improved through Facebook often linking members back to the website for documents and further information. Our website "look and "feel" has improved dramatically and the time spent on this by Laurie Weeden needs to be commended.

The ACF took time this year to acknowledge the trailblazers in Curling and early contributors as part of International Women's Day in March 2021 and International Men's Day in November 2021 as well as National Volunteer week in May. Curling would not be what it is today without many of these people and teams mentioned.



President's Report

January – Carlee Millikin begins her scholarship for Post Graduate Certificate “International Sport’s Management.

May – 13th Place finish for Australia (Team Gill/Hewitt) at 2021 World Mixed Doubles Championship in Scotland with a 3W-6L record.

September – World Curling Federation Virtual Congress attended by Kim Forge and John Anderson

November 2021 – Disappointingly, Australia was unable to compete in the final Pacific-Asia Curling Championships due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. A new Championship will start in 2022 called the Pan-Continental Curling Championships. This marks the end of an era really and beginning of a new chapter. We would like to acknowledge the long-time contributions of Hugh Millikin who has competed in 24 of these Championships beginning in 1991, with 9 Gold medals and 200 games – a remarkable feat!

December –Australia qualifies for Beijing 2021 Olympic Winter Games in the Mixed Doubles discipline at the World Olympic Qualification Event in the Netherlands. Team Gill/Hewitt went undefeated (7-0) in the event. This is the most significant achievement for curling in Australia to date.

I would like to thank Tahli Gill and Dean Hewitt for the commitment and dedication to their training and preparation in lead up to the qualification event. The sacrifices are too many to mention, especially considering this was done during a pandemic physically distanced from many of their support systems. Qualifying for the Olympics has brought an unprecedented interest in our sport in Australia. Achieving this historic milestone will forever change curling in our country.

Special thank you to Laurie Weeden who continues to build on areas of governance and policy creation documented on our website. Thank you to the State Representatives and members of the ACF Executive for their efforts throughout the year. Collaboration is key and your contributions are very much appreciated.

Kim Forge

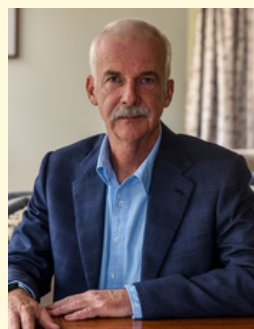
President - Australian Curling Federation

At the conclusion of 2021, all the teams have been decided for the upcoming Winter Olympic Games in Beijing February 2022. A successful Olympic Qualification event in Netherlands was the last opportunity for Women, Men and Mixed Doubles to qualify. Covid has made for a challenging qualification process as we delayed cancelled and adjusted various events. The 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing will be a different experience with the tight Covid-19 protocols expected. The addition of the Australian Mixed Doubles team validates the MD as an excellent discipline for all WCF members to get the opportunity to qualify for the OWG.

Besides the WWCC and WMCC, we also managed to get in the Europeans, Americas Challenge and the final PACC in Kazakhstan, another great event hosted by Victor Kim. Australia did not field any teams which was a shame as Australia had such a long history in the event.

The PACC will be replaced by the Pan-Continental Championships in 2022. The Australian Women will be in the A group and the Australian Men in the B group. The top 5 teams will advance to the 2023 World Championships. This event will have significant coverage as Canada and the USA will be competing against the best teams from the PACC.

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



As a member association of the World Curling Federation since 1984, the ACF has two representatives who vote on behalf of the ACF at annual World Congress meetings. Kim Forge, female representative (left) and John Anderson, male representative (right).

The WCF constitution, section 8.1.4, details the appointment of representatives. See [WCF Constitution](#).



Executive Board



President
Kim Forge



Vice-President
Laurie Weeden



Secretary
Lyn Gill



Treasurer
Edwin Wan

Association Member Representatives



NSW
Steve Johns



QLD
Dave Thomas



VIC
Michelle
Zintschenko



WA
Elliott
Douglas



Matt Panoussi
Skip



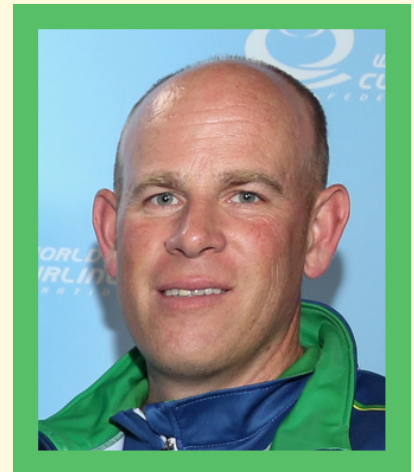
Kirby Gill
Vice Skip



**Michelle
Fredericks-
Armstrong**



**Sandy
Gagnon**



**Sean
Hall**

Members of the Athlete Commission were appointed on 19 November 2019 by the ACF Executive according to the [Athlete Commission - Terms of Reference](#).



Treasurer's Report

Dear Members,

The current status of the bank accounts has been circulated to all members in this Financial Report. As with the past few years, this financial year follows the calendar year running from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021. The activities on all bank accounts are shown in the profit & loss statement and balance sheet of this Financial Report. On 31 December 2021 we had no outstanding debtors.

For outstanding income, the AOC has contributed 90% (\$38,700) of the planned \$43,000 that was earmarked for the Australian Mixed Doubles team's high performance support. The remaining 10% (\$4,300) was received in 2022 and will be reported on in the 2022 Financial Report.

Income over the course of 2021 consisted of insurance payments from the state associations, World Curling Federation's (WCF) Development and Assistance Programme (DAP) funds, Australian Olympic Committee's (AOC) high performance funding, donation from BMD Group, and bank interest.

Expenses related to WCF DAP funds distributed to the state associations, AOC high performance funding to the Australian Mixed Doubles Curling team, WCF annual membership dues, Consumer Affairs Victoria annual registration fees, printing of brochures for Wheelchair Curling, annual insurance renewal fees, bank fees & a general admin expense. It was a typical year for the ACF. We end the year with a loss of \$625.79, retaining a total of \$6,769.29 in our bank account. This is due in part because State membership dues, in the amount of \$800 total, were invoiced in 2022 not 2021 to assist states with potential cashflow challenges associated with Covid-19.

I would like to thank Kim Forge & Laurie Weeden for their guidance, assistance & advice throughout my first year as Treasurer of the ACF, to the preceding ACF Treasurer Rob Gagnon for assisting me with the transition of the role, and to the ACF Executive Committee for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the administration of our sport in Australia.

Edwin Wan

Treasurer - Australian Curling Federation



Income Statement

STATEMENT OF PROFIT & LOSS

For 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2021

Created on 1st April 2022

Revenue

WCF Development Assistance Programme	\$10,882.83
- <i>First DAP payment</i>	\$231.71
- <i>Second DAP payment</i>	\$10,651.12
State insurance dues 2021-22	\$2,414.61
- <i>NSW (for 2020-21)</i>	\$375.93
- <i>VIC</i>	\$791.53
- <i>QLD</i>	\$505.65
- <i>WA</i>	\$741.50
AOC High Performance NF funding	\$48,700.00
BMD Group donation for wheelchair curling	\$1,500.00
Bank interest	\$0.46

TOTAL REVENUE	\$63,497.90
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Expenditure

WCF Development Assistance Programme	(\$10,882.83)
- <i>DAP 1 to WA</i>	(\$231.71)
- <i>DAP 2 to VIC</i>	(\$1,264.29)
- <i>DAP 3 to QLD</i>	(\$2,158.98)
- <i>DAP 4 to QLD</i>	(\$1,963.00)
- <i>DAP 5 to WA</i>	(\$5,264.85)
AOC High Performance NF funding	
- <i>Australian mixed doubles team</i>	(\$48,700.00)
Insurance	(\$2,387.10)
- <i>Personal disability/sports injury</i>	(\$917.92)
- <i>Broadform public liability</i>	(\$1469.18)
WCF annual membership dues	(\$566.64)
Consumer Affairs Victoria annual fee	(\$59.20)
Marketing expense	
- <i>Wheelchair curling brochure printing</i>	(\$1,500.00)
Bank fees	(\$12.00)
General admin expense	
- <i>Volunteer certificate</i>	(\$15.92)

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(\$64,123.69)
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PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	(\$625.79)
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Balance Sheet

BALANCE SHEET

For the year 1st January 2021 – 31st December 2021

Created on 6th April 2022

Assets

CURRENT ASSETS

Total in bank account	\$6,769.29
- Cash account	\$2,613.96
- Investment account	\$4,155.33

FIXED ASSETS

Property, plant & equipment	\$16,866.25
- Ice Boss ice scraper* (acquired 2017)	USD 10,000*** = AUD 13,152.10
- FloorCurl set x4** (acquired 2019)	USA 2,840*** = AUD 3,714.15

*ACF property currently housed in WA

**ACF property currently housed in QLD & WA each x2

*** Conversion rate USD 1.00 = AUD 1.32 as of 5 April 2022

TOTAL ASSETS	\$23,635.54
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Liabilities

None	\$0.00
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TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0.00
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NET ASSETS	\$23,635.54
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Equity

Retained earnings	\$23,635.54
Year-end earnings	(\$625.79)

TOTAL EQUITY	\$23,009.75
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Association Members



CURLING NSW



First Men's team to compete internationally in Oslo, Norway (1990) celebrated as trailblazers

2021 Highlights

- Carlee Millikin began her scholarship for the Postgraduate Certificate International Sports Management (PG Cert) with the World Academy of Sport
- Long-time Curling NSW member, Hugh Millikin, recognised as part of International Men's Day in November as being a part of the first Men's team to compete internationally (1990 - Oslo, Norway)
- November 2021 International Men's day feature recognised the first Australian Men's appearance at 1992 Olympic Winter Games when Curling was a demonstration sport; Skip Hugh Millikin



(L-R in Photo) Hugh Millikin (skip), Tom Kidd (third), Dan Joyce (Second), Steve Hewitt (Lead) and Brian Stuart (Alternate)



Carlee Millikin

Curling
Australia

Student Profile



Association Members



Kate Christopher Classic Champions

2021 Highlights

- Successful Learn to Curl program - 4 out of 9 participants signed on as members
- Presidents Trophy Champions - Derek Smith, Rob Burchby, Phil Goschnick
- Wright Ice Cup Champions - Jim Hansen, Toby Pryor, Matthew Heskett
- Kate Christopher Classic Champions - Dave Imlah, Rod Burchby, Terry Turner, Mathew Heskett, Grace McIntosh-Phillips
- Tahli Gill qualifies Australia a quota spot at the Beijing Winter Olympic Games with Mixed Doubles partner Dean Hewitt



Presidents Trophy Champions

Wright Ice Cup Champions





Association Members

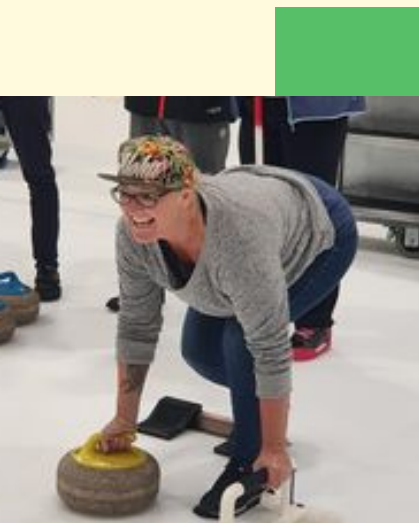


**VICTORIAN CURLING
ASSOCIATION**



2021 Highlights

- A sold out beginners league in February/March. Unfortunately due to COVID the last game/final never took place
- Victorian lockdowns prevented Curling for much of 2021
- VCA social media stayed active to keep members updated and positive
- Some social curling resumed late 2021 once restrictions eased - attendance was low





Association Members



2021 Highlights

- A \$30k project to develop a new Curling WA brand strategy & marketing plan with support from Department of Local Government, Sport & Local Industries, and the World Curling Federation.
- New regular ice time on Saturday afternoons for Come & Try Curling sessions and casual Curling games; drawing a new group of players to the sport.
- Strong participation on and off the ice. Around 800 people taking part in curling events throughout the year across three leagues, Come & Try sessions, and land curling demonstrations on school visits, special events and exhibitions.





International Representation

Mixed Doubles



Photos © WCF / Céline Stucki

2021 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships,
17 - 23 May 2021 in Aberdeen, Scotland

Results & Statistics Championships People

Position	Record	Association
1	10 - 1	Scotland Bruce Mouat, Jennifer Dodds
2	10 - 2	Norway Magnus Nedregotten, Kristin Skaslien
3	10 - 1	Sweden Oskar Eriksson, Almida De Val
4	8 - 4	Canada Brad Gushue, Kerri Einarson
5	7 - 3	Italy Amos Mosaner, Stefania Constantini
5	5 - 5	Switzerland Martin Rios, Jenny Perret
7	6 - 4	Czech Republic Tomas Paul, Zuzana Paulova
8	5 - 5	United States of America Joseph Polo, Tabitha Peterson
9	4 - 5	China Zhi Ling, Ying Yang
10	5 - 4	Germany Klaudius Harsch, Pia-Lisa Schöll
11	4 - 5	RCF Alexander Eremin, Anastasia Moskaleva
12	4 - 5	New Zealand Anton Hood, Courtney Smith
13	3 - 6	Australia Dean Hewitt, Tahli Gill

ROAD TO 2022

WORLD MIXED DOUBLES CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2021
ROUND ROBIN SESSION A4

SCOTLAND	6	7	RCF
GERMANY	6	9	ITALY
KOREA	8	5	SPAIN
HUNGARY	7	6	CZECH REPUBLIC
AUSTRALIA	8	5	CANADA



International Representation

Mixed Doubles

2021 Olympic Qualification Event,
5 - 18 December 2021 in Leeuwarden, Netherlands



Photos © WCF / Steve Seixeiro



Mixed Doubles Standings

Group A

#	Team	G	W	L
1	Australia	6	6	0
2	Russia	6	4	2
3	Hungary	6	4	2
4	Germany	6	3	3
5	Denmark	6	3	3
6	Spain	6	1	5
7	Turkey	6	0	6

9 January 2021 – Carlee Millikin Successful with Scholarship

Congratulations to Carlee Millikin who was successful in her scholarship application for the Postgraduate Certificate, "International Sports Management", developed and delivered in conjunction with the University of London. Carlee received news from the World Curling Federation that she was the recipient of a half scholarship and starts this month. As a current member of the Women's National team it is fantastic to see athletes furthering their interests.



8 March 2021 – International Women's Day

In celebration of International Women's Day the Australian Curling Federation takes a moment to highlight the trailblazers in Australian Curling history. Over the years there have been many contributors in Australian Curling with each Curling team or individual Curler inspiring future female Curlers.



This year we highlight the following: first Women's Curling team (1991), First Australian Curler to be named as one of

1 May 2021 – Expressions of Interest Sought for Men's and Women's Nationals

Released 1 May 2021 – As Australia has not qualified for the Olympic Qualification Event in either of the Men's or Women's disciplines, Australia is eligible to send a Men's and Women's team to the Northern Hemisphere autumn 2021 Open Men's/Women's World Curling Federation (WCF) Pre-Olympic Qualifier event. To determine what team will be given first preference to compete at this event, the ACF Executive, in consultation with the Athlete Commission, will refer to Eligibility Document V2.0. As part of that process.



9 April 2021 – 2020 Annual General Meeting Announcement

Released 9 April 2021 – The Australian Curling Federation (ACF) Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 11 May 2021 at 2000 hours AEST. Please see below for a description of the documents pertaining to the meeting, nomination forms which can be found on the website [here](#). Read more...



12 May 2021 – National Curling Season Update

Released 12 May 2021 – The Australian Curling Federation (ACF) recently issued an expression of interest to seek input from all Australian Curlers as to their intention to compete should a National Championship be held for the Men's and Women's disciplines.

As part of the extensive consultation process, input from the Athlete Commission and all the athlete submissions, comments and questions were considered. During the



19 May 2021 – World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship – Aberdeen, Scotland

Released 19 May 2021 – After the 2020 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship was cancelled last year due to the Pandemic, athletes were thrilled to be getting back on the ice to compete in the 2021 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship (WMDCC). Strict Covid-19 protocols were in place to ensure athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers were kept safe and healthy for the duration of the event.





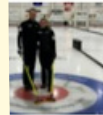
17 - 23 May 2021 - World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship Results - Aberdeen, Scotland

Released 24 May 2021 - At the end of the 2021 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship in Aberdeen, Scotland, Team Australia placed 7th in Group A during the round robin games retaining a place in the 2022 WMDCC and 13th overall in the event. This is a fantastic outcome for Australia as future Mixed Doubles events, will see the field split into a qualification event for the Worlds and World event. Going forward, the bottom 2 ranked teams from the



30-31 October 2021 - Australian Mixed Doubles Team Win WFG Okotoks Mixed Doubles Classic

Released 1 November 2021 - The Australian Mixed Doubles Team of Tahli Gill and Dean Hewitt are currently in Alberta, Canada training. This weekend they went undefeated at the WFG Okotoks Mixed Doubles Classic after playing the Canadian Team of Laura Walker and Kurt Muyres in the finals.



30-31 October 2021 - Australian Mixed Doubles Team Win WFG Okotoks Mixed Doubles Classic

Released 1 November 2021 - The Australian Mixed Doubles Team of Tahli Gill and Dean Hewitt are currently in Alberta, Canada training. This weekend they went undefeated at the WFG Okotoks Mixed Doubles Classic after playing the Canadian Team of Laura Walker and Kurt Muyres in the finals.



19 November 2021 - International Men's Day

In celebration of International Men's Day the Australian Curling Federation takes a moment to highlight the trailblazers in Australian Curling history. Over six days, we will celebrate some of the contributions of Australian men in Curling. There are many individuals who have influenced and shaped Australian Curling since its inception.



This year we highlight the following: Jim Oastler as

10 December 2021 - Australian curlers qualify for Beijing 2022

From ABC News: "Australia will have representation in curling at the Winter Olympics for the very first time in Beijing. Dean Hewitt and Tahli Gill won all seven of their matches at the qualification tournament in The Netherlands. [This]...earned Australia's first quota spot in the mixed doubles at this week's Olympic qualification event in Leeuwarden, The Netherlands overnight." Read more



This year on International Women's Day (8 March) the ACF recognised the trailblazers in Curling who have been instrumental in shaping our Sport.

Celebrating 2021 International Women's Day



8 March - In celebration of International Women's Day the Australian Curling Federation takes a moment to highlight the trailblazers in Australian Curling history. This is the first Australian Women's Curling team from 1991 featuring left to right: Lead Tanya Joyce, 5th Rhonda Shallcross/Oastler, 2nd Janie Pirret, Skip Jackie Lund, and 3rd Christine Guthrie/Traquair. The November 1991 Pacific Curling Championships took place in Sagami-hara, Japan with two Women's teams (AUS & JPN) and three Men's teams (AUS, NZ and JPN).
Photo courtesy of the Hewitt archives



Sandy Gagnon is congratulated on being the first Australian Curler to be named as one of the game umpires for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. The World Curling Federation announced all the International Technical Officials in June 2020. Sandy has also competed in 10 Pacific-Asia Curling Championships and 5 World Senior Curling Championships.
Photos © WCF / Céline Stucki



This is the first Senior Women's Curling team who competed in April 2013 at the World Senior Curling Championships held in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Left to right: Skip Lynn Hewitt, Vice-skip Ellen Weir, 2nd Gwen Wills, Lead Jenny Riordan with coach Ben Franklin. There were 14 Senior Women's teams at WSCC and 20 Senior Men's teams.
Photos © WCF



We acknowledge the most qualified coach in Australia, Lyn Gill, who holds a World Curling Federation Level 2 Coaching certificate. Lyn's completed two intense overseas coaching programs with the WCF and assisted with coaching two elite Junior World Curling training camps in Germany. As the long-time coach of the National Junior Women's team since 2008, Lyn has coached the team at both International and World level events since 2009. Nationally, Lyn was recognised as 2009 Coach of the Year by the Australian Institute of Winter Ice Sports for her involvement as a coach of elite Junior curling athletes. In addition, Lyn is an elite player representing Australia at the 2013 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships and 7 Pacific-Asia Curling Championships – the most recent in 2018 with two of her daughters on the team. What a role model and contributor to junior development in Australian Curling. Photos © WCF / Tom Rowland



Individual recognition today goes to Kim Forge who, for the past 8 years, has been at the helm of the Australian Curling Federation as the first female President. Prior to this, Kim served as the ACF Vice-President for 3 years and a VCA representative before the VP role. During Kim's time as President, the number of curlers in Australia has increased by 84%. In November 2020, Kim was selected as the sole Australian for the International Olympic Committee Executive Masters in Sport Organisation Management Programme. As a long-time Curling advocate, Kim was elected by fellow athletes in 2016 to serve on the WCF Athlete Commission and is the WCF Female Representative for the ACF. From 2009 – 2014 Kim served on the Pacific-Asia Zonal Commission representing Australian interests in the region. In addition to the above Kim has represented Australia in 4 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships, 4 World Mixed Curling Championships and 9 Pacific-Asia Curling Championships. © WCF / Céline Stucki 2015



2021 News

This year on International Men's Day (19 November) the ACF recognised the trailblazers in Curling who have been instrumental in shaping our Sport.

Celebrating 2021 International Men's Day – 19th November

Jim OASTLER – First ACF President
In celebration of International Men's Day on 19th November, we dig into the archives to acknowledge the tremendous contributions of Jim Oastler. Jim began as the President of the Australian Curling Association in Victoria from 1989 to 1994. During this time, the Australian Men's team played in their first international challenge (Oslo, Norway) in 1990 where Jim was team manager/media officer. It was around this time the ACA became the Australian Curling Federation with Jim at the helm.

In these early days Jim was instrumental in liaising with Pacific region countries to have the World Curling Federation (WCF) recognise the Pacific zone to include Asia, Oceania, & Africa which ultimately created the Pacific Curling Federation where Jim served as VP of the PCF. Jim represented the PCF and ACF at WCF meetings numerous times (too countless to list!).

At the 1992 Olympic Winter Games in Albertville, when the Australian Men's team competed in the demonstration sport with 8 other countries, Jim also represented Australia as team manager and media rep. The 1993 Pacific Curling Championships were hosted in Adelaide and Jim coordinated the ABC TV production of this event.

Wheelchair curling began as a discipline in Australia in 1994 and Jim, being on the WCF Program and Services Committee, co-wrote a proposal for Wheelchair Curling to be established. This turned out to be just the beginning of Jim's involvement in spearheading Wheelchair curling with the discipline being tested in 2000 within Europe and official acceptance at the International Bon Spiel and workshop held in Switzerland that year. The WCF held the first World Wheelchair Curling Championships in 2001 with 9 countries, and Jim finally saw the inclusion of Wheelchair Curling at the 2006 Paralympics Winter Games.

In 2015, Jim stepped away from curling to pursue personal interests in making documentaries (he's doing this!!), however his incredible legacy of involvement within Australian and International Curling and his extensive media knowledge, connections, perseverance and commitment to development in the Pacific region, as well as advocating for the inclusion of Wheelchair Curling, will be remembered.

Celebrating 2021 International Men's Day – 19th November



Dave Thomas
As part of International Men's Day on the 19th November, it is important to understand how the Australian Curling Federation became recognised as a National Sporting Organisation (NSO) for Curling in Australia. Dave Thomas (pictured) was instrumental in finalising the first version of the Member Protection Policy (MPP) which was submitted with a suite of documents to the Australian Sports Commission.

There are many factors involved in this recognition process – some were implemented in the early days of the Executive, at that time, had the foresight to have the Australian Curling Association to the Australian Curling Federation. Along the way, The Rules (constitutions) were created and then updated, and other working policies were created. The only obstacle at the time when applying for National Sporting Organisation was the ACF did not have a Member Protection Policy.

Dave and Matt Panoussi, the VCA Representative on the 2015/16 ACF Executive, collaboratively worked on the original 27-page MPP with Dave taking it to completion. Document creation is an arduous process and without their efforts, this particular document would not have been completed. The Member Protection Policy outlines legal obligations any sport is required to meet in order to prevent and address discrimination and harassment and to protect children from harm and abuse.

On the 16th March 2016, the Australian Sports Commission officially recognised the ACF as the National Sporting Organisation for Curling subject to terms and conditions set out as part of the recognition. There are many benefits to this recognition, one being the ability for State associations to apply for grant funding as most funding models require a sport to be nationally recognised. The next time you apply for a grant or successful with funding, you can thank Dave and Matt for their efforts on the MPP creation enabling an NSO recognition application to be successful.

As a long-time Queensland Curling Association (QCA) member, Dave has served both as the President of the QCA at various times and as a QCA Representative on the ACF Executive board. When reviewing policies and rules Dave is a real asset to the ACF Executive Committee. He also competed in success at the World Senior Curling Championships for Australia from 2009 – 2011, with the Senior Men's team winning bronze twice in that time. Photos © WCF

Celebrating 2021 International Men's Day – 19th November



First Men's Team
As part of International Men's Day on 19th November, we celebrate the trailblazers who have shaped Australian Curling. Pictured here is the first Australian Men's team from 1990 and it marked the first time Australia was represented internationally. An Australian contingent flew over to Canada to fly over to "The Australian Challenge" held in Oslo, Norway from 9-13 December 1990. The countries they played against were Japan, France, Wales, England, Germany, Italy, Holland and Austria.

The team was made up of: Hugh Milkin (skip), Jim Parker (third), Dan Joyce (Second), Steve Hewitt (Lead) and Lloyd Roberts (Alternate) with Gerald Chick as the team advisor.
Many of you will recognise most if not all of those names as they have been involved in various aspects of curling for many years and helped create a foundation for international opportunities that our Federation and its members benefit from today. There were many obstacles to overcome for this initial Challenge and all of those involved have paved the way to smoother processes and competitions.

Photo (L-R) Jim Oastler, Gerald Chick, Hugh Milkin, Jim Parker, Steve Hewitt, Dan Joyce and Lloyd Roberts. Photo courtesy of the Hewitt archives.



SENIORS
International Men's Day on 19th November gives us the perfect opportunity to look back and recognise the Men who have paved the way in Australian Curling. This is the first Senior Men's Curling team who competed in February 2003 at the World Senior Curling Championships held in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The team consisted of Skip Lloyd Roberts, Vice-skip Neil Galbraith, 2nd Jim Oastler, Lead Richard Leggat.

There were 15 Senior Men's teams and 10 Senior Women's teams in Winnipeg for this event - although the first appearance by an Australian Senior Women's team was in 2013. The next Senior Men's appearance at the World's was in 2005 featuring Skip Lloyd Roberts, Vice-Skip Tom Kidd, 2nd Jim Oastler, and Lead Neil Galbraith. Australia did not have representation again until 2019. Every year since 1990, a Senior Men's team has represented Australia with 9 of those World Championships were cancelled due to the Pandemic. Photo (L-R) Jim Oastler, Neil Galbraith...

Celebrating 2021 International Men's Day – 19th November



Australia at the 1992 Winter Olympic Games in Albertville. Today we look back at the first Australian Men's team at the 1992 Winter Olympic Games.

Over the past few days the ACF has featured some of the trailblazers in Australian Curling as part of International Men's Day on the 19th November. It seems fitting to end this celebration of Men's Curling with the first appearance at an Olympic Winter Games with the team of (L-R in Photo) Hugh Milkin (skip), Tom Kidd (third), Dan Joyce (Second), Steve Hewitt (Lead) and Brian Stuart (Alternate).

Curling was a demonstration sport at the 1992 Winter Olympics. The competition was held in the patinoire Olympique of Pralognan-la-Vanoise, near the host city, Albertville. This was the third time curling was a demonstration sport at the Winter Olympics with 1932 and 1988 being recorded officially as other years. Curling was officially added to the Olympic programme at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano.

In 1992, there were 8 countries: Australia, Canada, France, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and United States. Switzerland won the gold medal over Norway with a 7-6 score. Australia was in Pool A with Norway, Switzerland, and Great Britain where close games were lost to Great Britain and Norway and they



Acknowledgements



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

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