

**THIS IS**  
**LACROSSE**  
**AUSTRALIA**



# This is Lacrosse Australia

## Introduction

Lacrosse in Australia has a proud history dating back to 1876. Lacrosse Australia Honorary Historian Doug Fox is doing an excellent professional job recording many facets of our history so it can be admired and enjoyed by all who have an interest in this great game as well as the wider community.

The current process of the unification of the men's lacrosse national governing body, Lacrosse Australia, and the women's lacrosse national governing body, Women's Lacrosse Australia, is the catalyst for this publication to provide a snapshot of the recent history and status of men's lacrosse in Australia.

While recent research indicates that lacrosse was introduced to Australia by Canadian Lambton L Mount in 1876, for many years it was thought that lacrosse started downunder in 1874. The 1974 World Lacrosse Championships in Melbourne were even mistakenly promoted as a celebration of the centenary of lacrosse in Australia.

## Governance

The Australian Lacrosse Council was formally constituted on 8 June 1931 and a delegate system operated until a Special General Meeting, held on 18 March 1983, adopted a Directorate system which was implemented in 1985. The trading name Lacrosse Australia was adopted in 1986 before the Australian Lacrosse Council Limited was established as a Company Limited by Guarantee in 1992.

Lacrosse Australia has been well served over many years by both Delegates and Directors who have brought a wide range of management and financial skills to complement their lacrosse knowledge and passion for the game.

## International Lacrosse Federation

The Australian Lacrosse Council was a Foundation Member of the International Lacrosse Federation (ILF), which was formally constituted at a meeting held in Melbourne during the 1974 World Lacrosse Championships. Australia provided the draft constitution for the formation of the world body. Three Australians have held the position of ILF President – Laurie Turnbull, the Inaugural President, Clive Carr and current President, Peter Hobbs.

The ILF Constitution was rewritten by an Australian in 1994 and Australians have held the positions of Vice President, ILF Executive Director, Convener of the ILF Constitution and Rules Committee and membership of various other committees.

## Competition

**International – Senior World Lacrosse Championships** – In the 10 Senior World Lacrosse Championships since their inception in 1967, Australia has won four silver medals and six bronze medals. The number of teams competing in these competitions has increased from four in 1967 to 21 in 2006.



The world champions are presented with the Laurie Turnbull Shield, which was donated by and named after Australian Laurie Turnbull.

The Most Valuable Player at a world championship is presented with the Ray Kinderman Trophy, an intricate sculpture of two lacrosse players, hand crafted and donated to the ILF by Australian Ray Kinderman. Two Australian players, Jeff Kennedy (1982) and Peter Cann (1986), have won this award.

## Under 19 World Lacrosse Championships

The first Under 19 World Lacrosse Championship was held in Adelaide to celebrate Australia's bicentennial year. It was conducted after Lacrosse Australia proposed to the ILF that an Under 19 world championship be held every four years. Australia has won two silver medals and two bronze medals in the five tournaments to date.



**Indoor Lacrosse World Championships** – Lacrosse Australia has competed in the two World Championship events held in 2003 and 2007.

**Asia Pacific Tournaments** – Australia initiated and hosted the Inaugural Asia Pacific Lacrosse Tournament in 2004 with eight teams participating. The event was held in Japan in 2005 and New Zealand in 2007, with Australia winning all three tournaments.

With player numbers over this period ranging between 2,500 to 4,000, Australia does not have the number of players, coaches or other resources of countries such as USA, Canada, England or Japan. Our performance in international competitions could well earn us the tag of "the mouse that roared" – although achievements in other areas may well deserve the broader "quiet achiever" status.

## NATIONAL

**National** - Lacrosse Australia has successfully conducted at least three, and up to five, national competitions on an annual basis.

**Under 14/Under 15** – This competition started in 1983 as a Schoolboys (Under 14) Championship with State Teams participating. In 1991 the competition was changed to an Under 15 Tournament competition with regional teams to encourage participation by more players, coaches, managers and officials at the national level. The success of the competition has seen up to 12 teams participating each year.



**Under 16/Under 17** – This competition commenced in 1964 and the success of the Under 15 Tournament led to the Australian Under 17 Championship being changed to the Under 17 Tournament (regional) in 2005.

**Under 19/Under 21** – An Under 21 Championship was held until 1993 and was not replaced until an Under 19 Australian Championship was introduced in 2005.

**Seniors** – The Australian Senior Championships have been contested between the states since 1910. The format was changed in 2004 from the traditional 'carnival' to a National League, with teams playing games both at home and away to qualify for the final. The management of this competition was contracted to a professional sport management company. The new format doubled the number of games played by teams in the qualifying round, with all games played on an artificial surface. Games in 2004 were broadcast on television by both SBS and Fox Sports, and 2005 games were telecast in South East Asia.

**Indoor Lacrosse** – Lacrosse Australia has held two national competitions in this developing form of the game.



# LACROSSE

## INTERNATIONAL

### Development

**International** – Australia has been instrumental in the international development of lacrosse. Australia paid the ILF Affiliation fee to enable the Czech Republic to become an ILF Member, moved the motion at the 1988 ILF meeting to accept the Iroquois Nationals as an ILF Member and sponsored the membership of the Singapore Lacrosse Association to the ILF.

In the Asia Pacific region, Australia has sent teams and conducted coaching and officiating clinics in Japan, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Singapore. The establishment of the Asia Pacific Lacrosse Union was a Lacrosse Australia initiative.

Australian referees have contributed significantly to the development of international officiating, including the implementation of a sophisticated referee assessment system.

## NATIONAL

**National** – Lacrosse Australia has been active in the re-establishment of lacrosse in those States where the game has been lost for various reasons. As a result of development programs, including the employment of National Development Officers based in Queensland and New South Wales, the Queensland Lacrosse Association was re-affiliated in 1990, NSW Lacrosse Association in 1991 and Tasmanian Lacrosse Association in 1992. Development has been encouraged in those States through participation in national competitions and the hosting of national competitions in NSW (Under 17 Championship, 1997) and Queensland (Under 15 Tournament, 2001). The change of the national Under 15 and Under 17 competitions to a regional team format provided a more achievable 'entry level' competition for these developing associations.

### Officiating

The Australian Lacrosse Referees Association, which is an Affiliate Member of Lacrosse Australia with active State branches, manages the recruitment, training and development of lacrosse officials. The national body has developed a sophisticated assessment process which produces an objective ranking system for all referees in Australia. This provides valuable input into the selection process for referees to officiate at international competitions.



Australian lacrosse referees are highly respected and recognised in world lacrosse.

### Achievements

Australian lacrosse people have been recognised for their achievements in many different ways internationally, nationally and locally.

**International** – Australian players have been selected as the Most Valuable Players and members of the World Lacrosse Team at World Lacrosse Championships.

Australian Referees have been selected to officiate in the Championship Final game at World Lacrosse Championships.

Many Australian players have gained scholarships to attend 'Ivy League' USA Colleges, strongly influenced by the potential contribution of their lacrosse skills to the College lacrosse program.

**National** – Australian lacrosse people have been awarded honours in the Australian Honours system. Many Lacrosse Australia personnel were awarded the Australian Sports Medal in the year 2000, recognising their contribution to the sport.

Australian lacrosse players have been honoured with membership of the Australian Sport Hall of Fame.

Lacrosse Australia was a Finalist in the 2005 Ausport Awards National Sporting Organisation Performance Award category.

The Australian Lacrosse League television broadcasts were recognised as a Finalist in the 2005 Confederation of Australian Sport Awards Sport Media Award category. Two Lacrosse Australia Board Members have been Finalists in the Sport Executive of the Year category of these awards.

**State** – Lacrosse players, referees, coaches and administrators have been recognised in State Halls of Fame, Sports Star Awards, Service to Sport awards and various other award programs conducted in each State to recognise sporting excellence and commitment.

The 2002 Festival of Lacrosse won the 2003 WA Sport & Recreation Industry Special Achievements Award and the 2004 WA Citizen of the Year in the category of Sport was a lacrosse person. The nominations of both winners were submitted by the W A Sports Federation.

**Local Government** – Some Local Government Authorities also recognise sporting and community achievements and lacrosse people have been honoured in various ways, such as in a Sport Wall of Fame.



## STATE

## INTERNATIONAL

### Financial Management

Lacrosse Australia has maintained a responsible approach to building financial strength and has accumulated net assets at 30 June 2006 in excess of \$150,000.

The average annual expenditure for Lacrosse Australia over the last ten years has been \$120,000. This amount does not include costs involved in the conduct of national competitions which is included in the finances of State Associations to which the events are franchised. Nor does it include the expenditures in excess of \$300,000 incurred by every Australian lacrosse team participating in World Lacrosse Championships every second year. As no High Performance funding has been provided to Lacrosse Australia by the Australian Sports Commission since 2000/2001, all these expenses have been met by team members.

The total grant received each year since 2001/2002 by Lacrosse Australia from the Australian Sports Commission is \$25,000, contrasted with the annual multi-million dollar grants provided to some other field sports such as hockey and soccer.

Participation by Australian lacrosse teams in other international competitions such as the Asia Pacific Tournaments and Japan Friendship Games also involves significant additional costs for elite lacrosse personnel.

In 1986 Lacrosse Australia established a protected Trust Fund, which has steadily grown, to provide seed funding loans to support Australian lacrosse teams.

### Innovation

Through its programs and changes in governance, competition, event management and development, Lacrosse Australia has been innovative in its second century of managing lacrosse in Australia. Other Lacrosse Australia innovations include:

**Sofcrosse** was a national initiative of Lacrosse Australia which was one of the first, and most successful, modified sports in the Australian Sports Commission Aussie Sports program. This resulted in this modified form of lacrosse being introduced and played in thousands of schools across Australia.

**International Licencing Agreement** with a Japanese company for a period of eight years provided an annual income of \$10,000 by providing the licence for the company to use Lacrosse Australia logos on items of clothing sold in South East Asia.

**Canberra** – In July 1997 the Lacrosse Australia Board of Directors arranged their meeting in Canberra and met with Warwick Smith, the advisor to the Federal Minister for Sport, who was impressed with the management of lacrosse in Australia. A meeting was then held with senior managers of the Australian Sports Commission who indicated that Lacrosse Australia was one of the best managed national sport organisations and was leading the field in areas such as management structure, publications such as the Australian Lacrosse Journal, reports from World Championships and bids for international events.

### Event Management

Lacrosse Australia has an outstanding record and a well deserved excellent reputation for the successful conduct of lacrosse events.

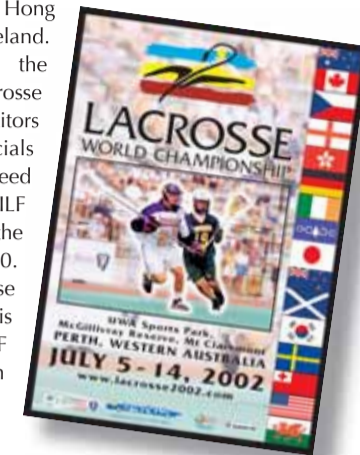
## INTERNATIONAL

### International Senior World Lacrosse Championships

**1974** – Four teams (Australia, Canada, England and USA) participated in the event held in Melbourne.

**1990** – The Iroquois National Lacrosse Team made their debut when Perth held the Championships for the first time. Japan also played in several exhibition games to mark that country's first involvement in a World Championship.

**2002** – This was the first World Championship event with the host nation determined by the ILF through a competitive tender process. Held in Perth for the second time, this event had 15 teams competing, including first time participants Hong Kong, Korea, New Zealand and Ireland. The World Championship was the feature event in a Festival of Lacrosse which attracted some 1300 competitors and an additional 400 referees, officials and team training staff. After agreed payments in excess of \$31,000 to ILF and \$45,000 to Lacrosse Australia, the event produced a profit of \$183,000. The Western Australian Lacrosse Association used a portion of this profit to make donations to the ILF Development Committee and each Lacrosse Australia Member State Association.



### Under 19 World Lacrosse Championships

**1988** – Inaugural event conducted in Adelaide with four teams competing.

**1999** – Conducted in Adelaide with six teams competing.

### Asia Pacific Tournament

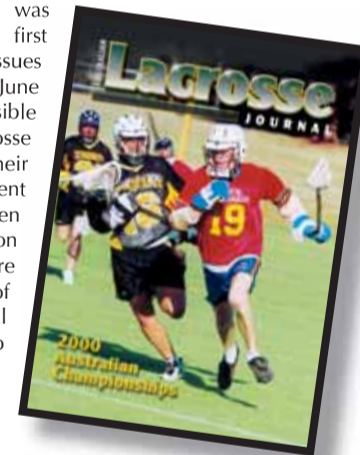
**2004** – Inaugural event conducted in Adelaide with eight teams competing.

**National** – Lacrosse Australia currently conducts five national lacrosse competitions each year, with up to 12 teams participating in any one competition, including visiting international teams on a regular basis. The host venue for competitions conducted in the traditional 'carnival' format are determined by Lacrosse Australia on a rotation basis.

The Australian Lacrosse League (ALL) format provides each participating State Association the opportunity to host ALL games every year. This has been one of a few national league competitions successfully conducted in Australia by a national sport organisation.

### The Australian Lacrosse Journal

The Australian Lacrosse Journal was a national lacrosse magazine first published in June 1997, with 13 issues published until the last issue in June 2002. The Journal was made possible by the commitment of the lacrosse State Associations to subscribe all their registered members and that agreement was for a three year period. When the Victorian Lacrosse Association withdrew its support efforts were made through the involvement of a private publisher and financial support from Lacrosse Australia to continue publication, but it was not financially viable without the support of all Associations. The Australian Lacrosse Journal was recognised by the Australian Sports Commission and the Federal Minister for Sport Rod Kemp as an excellent national sports organisation publication.



**Australian Sports Foundation (ASF)** – Lacrosse Australia has a Scholarship Program registered with the ASF which provides a tax deduction for donations made to the project through the ASF. When sufficient funds are available scholarships will be provided to State Lacrosse Associations, clubs and individuals based on the achievement of specific criteria.

### Volunteers

All this, and much more, has been achieved by Lacrosse Australia through the commitment and support of hundreds of volunteers with a passion for their sport which is exceeded by none. The continued success of lacrosse in Australia depends to a very large degree on the continued support from many more volunteers – people who gain satisfaction and enjoyment from giving of themselves to help make lacrosse happen in their communities, in their State and in Australia.

May the next 131 years provide as wonderful a history as the first.

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P.O. Box 162 Wembley  
Western Australia 6913  
www.lacrosseaustralia.org  
ABN 70 056 806 190