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Article by Gerard Walsh

Polocrosse Documented



A team consists of six players, divided into two sections of three. These sections play alternate chukkas of six to eight minutes each, with normally four chukkas comprising a match, although at times up to eight chukkas are played. The three players in each section are numbered - No. 1 is the attack, or goal scorer, No. 2 is the centre, and No. 3 is the defence.

The history of one of three truly Australian sports will be highlighted in a blue chip documentary "The Polocrosse Story".

The television production company, Palatine Productions, has been contracted to produce a one-hour blue chip documentary special for the Polocrosse Association of Australia (PAA) which will be released and distributed on DVD in July 2015.

The documentary will showcase the unique Australian sport of Polocrosse; covering its history, the sport, the competitors, the horses, coaches and umpires, select events and its community. The documentary will go behind the scenes to tell the story of Polocrosse.

Palatine Productions crews are scouring the country to find footage and materials never seen before, all to tell the incredible story of Polocrosse.

The sport was developed in 1938

from a combination of Polo, Lacrosse and Netball. Polocrosse, alongside Australian Rules and Campdrafting, is one of three sports totally developed in Australia.

Documentary production will continue until July 2015, and some of the events being featured on the documentary are the Australian Polocrosse Junior Classic and Silver Stirrup Ladies Competition in Albury. The Barastoc Interstate Series in Warwick and the Hall 40th Anniversary Masters Carnival in the Australian Capital Territory.

Palatine Production Producers, Ian Withnall and Sharen Kenny, are thrilled about working together with the PAA and various club committees on this exciting project to promote Australia's great and unique sport.

The documentary will be used nationwide to promote the sport and be available for viewing at the new Australian Polocrosse Museum at Warwick Polocrosse Club headquarters at Morgan Park.

Both the Warwick Club and PAA have made financial contributions to a museum project to put together memorabilia from all states and all aspects of the sport.

While the museum is a work in progress, it was opened twice for viewing in 2014 during the Barastoc Interstate Series/Shell Cup and Warwick Rosebowl weekends.

The museum, a purpose build facility, is situated just behind the main field at Morgan Park and adjacent to the children's playground.

The Warwick club hosted the first two World Cups in 2003 and 2007 and the 2012 Nationals.

Warwick President, Les Fraser said the only constraints on the museum were time and money. "It will take a while to develop the museum to its full potential but we knew that at the start. You have got to start somewhere and go through all the memorabilia and historical information," he said.

Fraser, his wife and club treasurer Robyn Fraser and museum curator Betty Wells are progressively working to set up the museum.

A lot of memorabilia from past New South Wales and National President, the late Max Walters MBE, has been donated to the museum along with a donation this year of memorabilia from the collection of the late Sybil Thompson, a long-time member of the Chinchilla club and Life Member of the Queensland Polocrosse Association.

"All the states are supporting the museum project and we want memorabilia from across the nation," Fraser said. "We are lucky to be developing a museum now as there are people with memorabilia from the early days of the sport 60 years ago. We need to get a handle on the early history now. Long-term, we want the museum to be part of Warwick bus tours and be available for group visits".

Some of the memorabilia being sought are old polocrosse racquets and helmets.

"There has been a dramatic change in the racquets down the years and this will be documented at the museum," he said.

On the polocrosse fields of the nation, early season action in Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia is winding down but action is hotting up in the other states where the seasons starts in autumn.

Victoria beat Tasmania in the annual Bass Strait Cup, which was hosted this year by Tasmania.

With the next Nationals in April 2016 in Albury, coaches and selectors in each state are already looking at players with a view to team selection.

The Australian World Cup Polocrosse team played carnival polocrosse against Australian Development Teams in April as part of its preparation for the Cup in South Africa in July 2015.

The Cup team includes captain Jane Cooper, Lizzie Lyster, (both Western Australia), vice-captain Abbott Grills, Lucy Grills, Will Weston, Jim Grills (all New South



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1. Behind the scenes 'The Polocrosse Story'. Director Ian Withnall filming Kevin Bradford at Hall 40th Anniversary Masters Carnival 2015 Photo courtesy of Palatine Production Company
2. Polocrosse museum in Warwick with curator Betty Wells
3. Inside Polocrosse museum in Warwick

Wales), Trent Collins (Queensland) and Lauren Cant who is from Western Australia but currently playing in Queensland.

National coach Troy Henry (Albury-Holbrook, New South Wales), assistant coach Kent Wells (Warwick in Queensland) and manager Carolyn Garland (Coffs Harbour, New South Wales) are leaving no stone unturned to have the team in top form for the fourth World Cup, an event held every four years.

For more information about Palatine

Productions and the documentary, please go to www.palatineproductions.com.au

Anyone with early history of the game which may assist in the production of the documentary is welcome to call the PAA on 1300 363 722 or email: neo@polocrosse.org.au

Please ring Les Fraser on 0419 714 545 with history and memorabilia for the Australian Polocrosse Museum in Warwick. 📞



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Polocrosse: A truly Australian Made Sport

Polocrosse Australia
Karin Stockman
Phone: 1300 363 722
www.polocrosse.org.au

New South Wales
Melanie Kelly
Mobile: 0407 207 649
www.nswpolocrosse.com.au

Victoria
Lisa Baker
Mobile: 0408 832 728
www.polocrossevic.com.au

Tasmania
Summah Greenhill
Mobile: 0419 758 076
www.pxtas.org.au

Northern Territory
Jane Davies
Mobile: 0417 693 288
www.ntpolocrosse.com.au

Queensland
Hayley Carroll
Phone: 1300 883 339
www.polocrosse.com.au

Western Australia
Kim Maguire
Phone: 08 9755 9806
www.pawa.asn.au

South Australia
Jodie-Ann Hochuli
Phone: 08 8388 0065
www.polocrossesa.org.au

