



# 2017 *adg* ANNUAL REPORT

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## President's report

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The 2017 season started with a lot of new members on the committee. It wasn't long though before the board found their feet and started working towards the main goal of helping to grow the sport Australia wide.

Thanks for all the help from people on the committee this year. Big thank you goes out to Jarrath Sweetten who has been working hard on the ADG website. A lot of information can now be found using the website, making it easier for players and TD's to locate the information they need. The website continues to be improved with plans to include information about insurance and club affiliations early in the new year. Through the year we also worked on a juniors policy, Thanks to Darren Stace-Smith for his work on this, and developed a process for conflict resolution. In October we were pleased to announce the 2017 grant winners – Sunshine Coast Disc Golf will use the grant to install a course and Gavin Douglas from Tom Price, WA, purchased resources for running community events to increase the interest in disc golf ahead of the installation of a course in the area.

Andrew Ferguson has also been working hard with Golf Australia and we saw the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Golf Australia and Australian Disc Golf. The MoU was created to build the relationship between the associations for the purpose of providing opportunities for people to participate in the game of golf and disc golf. The affiliation seeks to develop participation pathways to create clear programs for individuals to progress in both sports. GA will keep its State/Territory associations up to date on relevant ADG activities and initiatives. It will also help promote and provide advice in the running of ADG events and create cross promotional and pathway opportunities.

Looking ahead, after much discussion and feedback it was decided to leave the structure of the tour largely unchanged for 2018. Next year will see the return of the women's global event. The ADG has got behind this event and will help grow the women's side of disc golf.

There will be more information to come shortly into the new year but this event will be run along with the South Australian Open next year. Any females looking to head to an event outside of their state next year this would be the one to go to. Thanks to Sweetten for her work on this and I look forward to seeing the results for the event from a growing ladies field.

Thanks to all the people out there running events, building clubs and playing this great sport. If you think that you may have an idea that would help grow the sport of Disc Golf in Australia then please don't hesitate to get in contact with the ADG or me our door is always open.

Happy hucking,

David Bandy

ADG Chairperson



## By the Numbers

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54

Courses Australia-wide.  
(4 Installed in 2017)

407

ADG Members  
played at least 1  
tournament in 2017



25

A and B tier events  
on the 2017 ADG  
tour

## 2016/17 Australian Disc Golf Financial Report

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The ADG financial year ran from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017. As of the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 ADG held \$15,960.88 in its bank accounts. This is compared to last year's financial position of \$11055.615 as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016.

Event based fees are the major source of annual income for ADG. There was an increase in event based income when compared to last year. This year ADG event based fees amounted to \$9565.46 as compared to \$6733 last year. I note there are still some invoices awaiting payment.

This year due to changes in the PDGA system, ADG decided to deduct the cost of the PDGA Registration Fees from the ADG EBF Invoice. This amount is \$50 US per event and ranged between \$65 to \$75 Australian depending on the exchange rate at the time the event was registered. In all so far this year the total deductions have amounted \$840.52. Unfortunately, this does not appear in the accounts as a cost as it is deducted directly from the EBF invoice at the time of issue. Next year a system should be implemented whereby the cost of the PDGA registrations appears in the accounts.

We incurred costs of \$338.10 for complementary PDGA membership for the first-place getters in each division of the 2016 ADG Tour.

The MOU between the AFDA and ADG continues. ADG has negotiated a rate of \$1.10 per competitor for B and C tier tournaments, \$2.20 per competitor for A-tier events and \$3.30 per competitor for Australian Disc Golf Championships. These charges applied as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 and are per event not per day. In 2016 we incurred costs of \$1598.30. We currently owe the AFDA 1683.45 in 2017 Affiliation Fees which will be paid after ADGC 2017, where upon I would expect the amount owed to be closer to \$2000.



## 2016/17 Major Expenditure Items

Item	2015/16 Amount (\$)	2016/17 Amount (\$)
Tour Trophies	570.74	763
PDGA Membership Tour Prizes	198.71	338.10
ADGC Grants	0	1000
Paypal Fees	25.18	0
PDGA Sanctioning Fees	685.33	0
ADG MOU Fees	1641.9	1598.3
Website Maintenance	377.83	433.10
ADGC 2015 Grant – Tasmanian Gov't	3000	0
Team Oz Entry Fee	1100.68	0
Team Oz Donations to Players	2945	0
Team OZ Uniforms	0	710
Parks Victoria Bond Transfer	0	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>10545.37</b>	<b>5342.5</b>

Note: PDGA Registration Refunds of \$840.52 is not accounted for in the books.

## 2016/17 Major Income Items

Item	2015/16 Amount (\$)	2016/17 Amount (\$)
Tournament fees	6432	9118.96
League Fees	301	446.5
ADGC 2015 Grant – Tasmanian Gov't	3000	0
Team Oz Hoodies	1685	60
Team Oz Donations	2405	0
Parks Victoria Bond Refund	0	500
Term Deposit Interest	115	122.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>13938</b>	<b>10247.77</b>

Martin Ryland-Adair

ADG Treasurer

# NSW Disc Golf State Report

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2017 was a big year for disc golf in NSW. We commenced with the season starting 2016 ADGC. 70 players tested themselves on the tough Neil Roberts tournament layout at Sydney's Newington Armory. 18 holes per day allowed for a more social event. Players congregated on successive evenings at Brush Park Bowling Club for the player's dinner, ADG Annual General Meeting and barefoot bowls. In the Men's Open division, Chris Hill, a regular on the Newcastle scene, took out second place at the Championships. A stalwart in NSW disc golf and long serving ADG board member, Emilie Cameron, won the Advanced Women's division. Tanel Luik from Estonia (via Sydney) took home top spot in Intermediate.



2017 was a year about breaking new ground. The final 9 baskets were installed at Dubbo's Sandy Beach Disc Golf Course, staking its claim for best 18 hole course in NSW. The town, more famous for its zoo than its disc golf, played host to the Dubbo Charge in August and the 2017 NSW Open in October. Over 70 people travelled to the two events with solid representation from interstate travellers as well. The course, including two picturesque throws across the Macquarie River, was well liked and will be a mainstay on the NSW tour calendar in future years. Event TD and local DG enthusiast, Kevin Rugg, has been the driving force behind this courses installation and further work is to be completed with course map sign and 36 tee signs to be installed before the end of the year.



2017 was a year about new opportunities. Newcastle disc golf kicked off a regular disc golf putting league, hosted under lights on synthetic grass at the Cardiff Bowling Club. DiscGolfPark Australia has been hard at work with new courses installed in the Snowy Mountains and more planned at a number of locations around the state. Growth in Sydney has seen a potential course location touted for Camden, in the south west.





2017 was a year about breaking records and travel. The Sydney and Newcastle annual B-Tiers, Up On Juan and Jesmond Jam, both attracted over 30 competitors for the first time in their existence, with numbers boosted by interstate travellers coming to our events.

NSW players took to the road as well, making up over 70 tournament attendees across the country. It wasn't just local travel either as Sally Hill again took off overseas, attending the 2017 PDGA Amateur and Junior Disc Golf World Championships in the USA.



2018 will be about growth. The Sydney Disc Golf Club looks to raise awareness of the sport in our country's largest city. Ballina continues to grow with some exciting plans for 2018. Coolangatta Estate on the south coast will finally get its B-Tier that heavy rain prevented in 2017. Rathmines will play host to the 2018 NSW Open in October.

See you somewhere out on the course!

Luke Turnbull

NSW State Rep



# Queensland Disc Golf State Report

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This year has been a big year for QLD disc golf, we have seen the start of Queensland Disc Golf Inc. and the start of two more league days, one in Pine Rivers and the other Sunshine coast, which now have established clubs.

We had 5 PDGA events 4 were C tiers and one B tier.

QLD had our first trilogy challenge run by switch city disc golf and was a big success and everyone enjoyed the unique event.



Photo by Tim Marchbank

Sunshine Coast disc golf have been putting in a huge effort to get a course installed and hopefully we will see one installed next year.

Rhys Kruger

QLD state rep



# Tasmania Disc Golf State Report

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## Courses

- Poimena Reserve, Austins Ferry – 18 baskets, permanent, public. Est 1985
- Rivers Edge Wilderness Camping, near Judbury – 6 baskets, private course. Est 2016
- Camp Clayton, Ulverstone – 9 baskets, private course at Christian outdoor activity centre. Est 2016

## Courses on the horizon

- I understand that Burnie Council on the North West Coast has committed funds to a 9 basket course.
- Clarence Council (part of Greater Hobart) has committed funds to a 6 basket course in Richmond.

## Tournaments

- Two Heads Open, Poimena Reserve, March, ADG A-Tier event  
10th year, 15 players
- <https://www.pdga.com/tour/event/31455>

## Monthly League Days at Poimena Reserve

- First Started in April 2014.
- Running all year. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month.
- One round of 18 holes, handicap format.
- Average attendance each month, 5 players.
- Introduced handicap scoring system using [www.discgolfmetrix.com](http://www.discgolfmetrix.com)

## Participation at Poimena Reserve

- Local players have observed that player numbers continue to increase.
- Multiple schools and colleges are regularly using the course over the Spring and Summer.
- Avery Jenkins visited Tasmania for one day only, just to play Poimena!

## Course infrastructure improvements at Poimena Reserve

Local players have installed seven sealed gravel tee pads at Poimena. More are planned for next year.

## Hobart Disc Golf Club

Setting up Hobart Disc Golf Club is still on the wish list.

## Disc golf coaching in schools

Richard Sampson, representing his business Discology, continues to run disc golf coaching clinics with local schools and colleges.

Richard Sampson

Tas state rep



Photo by Richard Sampson

# ACT Disc Golf Report

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This past year was another great year for the ACT Disc Golf Club (ACTDGC). The trend in the amount of people playing in the ACT has continued to grow. One reason for this has been the installation of a new beginner friendly course in a relatively busy park that is providing great exposure for the sport in the community. The club is being backed by the local government which is allowing for great things to happen now and in the future. The club itself has seen an increase in the number of new members and new players that have found the disc golf bug.

## **Parks and Recreation Grants**

Over the past year, the ACTDGC received two grants from the local Parks and Recreation department totalling close to \$30,000 which has significantly helped the club and disc golf in Canberra. We received \$3,000 that we used to purchase portable baskets, a gazebo, tables, feather flags, banners, basket information signs and beginner friendly loaner discs; these are incredible assets that are helping the club with better promotion and providing a more professional feel at events. We also received just over \$26,000 to install a new course in Belconnen along with getting additional baskets to use in competitions.

## **John Knight Memorial Disc Golf Course**

The ACTDGC is super pleased to have our second disc golf course in Canberra. The course is located in central Belconnen right beside Lake Ginninderra and features a mix of tight wooded bushland and open mowed fairways. The course was designed to be beginner friendly and was modelled around the PDGA recommendations for distances and difficulty. It was also designed to avoid conflict with other park users (including a large playground area) by utilizing low use areas, containing holes within paved areas, and ensuring good line of sights. The baskets have been in for several months with basic markers used for the tees. Feedback for the course has been very good especially with the dual tees to allow for more challenge for seasoned players. All the holes have two pin locations and the ground sleeves were installed with irrigation boxes to make it easy to change locations; this makes it easy to remove the baskets so that they can be used in temp comp courses. The cost for installing concrete tee pads was more than expected so, we recently received some additional funds to help cover these costs. The tee pads and signs are being installed in mid to late November with the official course opening and Come & Try day happening on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December where we hope to have the local sports minister in attendance. There have certainly been some lessons



learned in the process and we hope that we can take this knowledge forward to future years to make additional new course installations that much easier.

### **Eddison Park**

The future of Eddison Park is still up in the air as the Cemetery was poised to remove a significant portion of one side of the park. Trees were marked months ago for removal but nothing has happened yet. Our hope is that the Cemetery will not expand into Eddison Park and this could be a possibility considering that they would prefer to have an entire new facility constructed in a new area. Since we still don't know the fate of the park, it has been hard to put any effort into improving the park such as redesigning the layout to incorporate some additional baskets and put in actual tee signs to help new players navigate the course.

### **Future Courses**

We have a number of excellent disc golf areas in our sights to put new courses in but this will just take some time. The main focus for new courses is to build the Canberra player base and provide easy to play courses that are fun for all abilities. For the next year, we hope to get new grant funding to get another John Knight style course in the southern part of the city. We are also hoping that we can get funding to help secure a full competition level course at Weston Park where the 2018 National Championships will be held. At the minimum, we are going to push to get permission and funding to install additional collars so that we can at least have a semi-permanent install that will make setup that much easier and the locked baskets could stay in place for the duration of the event.

### **Tournaments and League**

Our main tournament of the year was The Sizzler which again became our most successful tournament to date with over 60 players coming from far and wide. It was the first time that it was held outside of Eddison Park and it utilized portable baskets that were brought in by the Dubbo and Sydney crew (which we were very grateful for). The course was very well received and will be the host for the 2018 National Championships which we are super excited about. The club planned on doing some additional larger events such as another Ace Race but the work with John Knight and other potential courses took away the time to organize these. We have continued to hold a monthly league that follows the calendar year and have also added a weekly Thursday league that started out as a glow round in the winter and has moved on to a current match play style which has been a lot of fun. We are currently looking at some additional events that we could hold such as a putting league and adding some smaller events to the schedule. Stay tuned for more information!

Todd Nowack

ACT Representative



# SA Disc Golf Report

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Disc golf has had an excellent year in South Australia. The South Australian Disc Golf Association (SADGA) has hosted many come and try events throughout the year. SADGA established a good relationship with the National Parks last year and after hosting two come and try days at national park events; we were invited to host another this year. Through those events over 200 people have been introduced to the



sport. With the permission of National Parks, regular events have also been hosted at a location in Black Hill Conservation area and new and seasoned players alike have had a chance to play the sport. We are now in talks with the National Parks to put a permanent course in at that location, and the project is looking very promising. The council in the area where the park is located has also expressed enthusiasm about the course and is interested in supporting it financially. The club treasurer Andrew Simpson has done an excellent job of building relations with the council.

SADGA received a grant from the City of Adelaide to run disc golf come and try events in the Adelaide Parklands. So far, we have run three events and had 130 participants, most of them new to the sport. These events have significantly increased the visibility of the sport in Adelaide as they have been hosted in Park 15 (Ityamai-Itpina) on the North East corner of the CBD! We expect a great turn out at the final event this year on December 3<sup>rd</sup>!



The South Australian Open in May was a success this year, with many players coming from interstate, but also quite a few of the locals getting out and playing. A good time was had by all as the wonderful little town of Tintinara opened its arms to us. The locals were very supportive as usual, providing excellent course maintenance and a delivery of hay bales to spruce up one of the holes. A big thanks to Luke Turnbull for doing heaps of work co-tournament directing even though living interstate.

Disc golf has taken off in Mt Gambier and a substantial club has been established there thanks to the hard work of Ryan Nicholson. There is a great group of players and the club has been having regular league days and bag tag challenges at the location where they play in Valley Lake Park. Ryan also organized an excellent tournament at the park early this year and we were amazed by just how awesome the location was for disc golf. The absolutely stunning park will soon be the site for a permanent course. Ryan and the club in Mt Gambier are doing great things!



Another development was that Glenunga High School approached the SADGA to teach two sessions of disc golf. SADGA President Todd Brooks taught the sessions and over 60 students played disc golf for the first time. The sport was well received by the students and staff and they expressed an interest in further sessions in the future.

Another major development is the recent installation of a course at Woodhouse Activity Centre within 30 minutes of the Adelaide CBD. It is a 9-hole beginner friendly course that will be an excellent resource to grow the sport. As it is on private land there is a fee to access the course, but we are in talks with the Centre to establish a special rate for disc golfers.

Altogether it has been a great year for disc golf in SA!

Todd Brooks

SA State Representative

## Victoria Disc Golf Report

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Victoria has had another excellent year as far as disc golf is concerned! Both the Melbourne Disc Golf Club and the Geelong Disc Golf Club had excellent membership numbers. League days for both clubs have seen more unique players than ever before, with Geelong touting 67 unique players through the year and Melbourne having 81 unique players through their league days. Both clubs are hoping for more club memberships to be sold for 2018, as they solidify their places within their suburban sporting communities. MDGC took their league days to a few other locations in 2017, with Wilson's Botanical Park in Berwick, and Yammerbook Reserve in Aspendale both hosting a league day with lots of public and member interest. The Geelong Club, along with running their league day each month at Barwon Valley and a couple at Drysdale, hosted a hugely successful and hotly contested team event this year. The Southwest Classic Team event, which ran at Barwon Valley, was well attended by Geelong and MDGC players alike.

Throughout 2017 there were 6 tournaments in Victoria. The only A tier was the Vic Open held in Drysdale, which had phenomenal numbers this year of 70 players! Won by locals Cassie Sweeten on the women's side, and heartthrob Jarrath Sweeten going on to win the men's division. As for B tier tournaments, there were 5, which all were very well supported by the Victorian disc golfers and interstate players. Halls Gap ran for the first time ever, in a beautiful setting, and with 30 players. The Kingston City Classic ran for a second year, this time at Bald Hill Park, which is hoping to get a new, permanent 9-hole course in 2018, 30 players attended. Inverleigh Open ran for the first time ever this year, with 41 players. The ball golf course was in a beautiful setting for a disc golf course, and hopefully the beginning of a positive relationship with the ball golf club. Melbourne Cup ran at MDGC's home course at Ruffey Lake, with a light on (21), but competitive group of disc golfers braving the stormy conditions. 2 aces were recorded on the day, with Paul Arden and Toosje Frequin each recording the elusive "1" on the card! The last event of the 2017-year in Victoria will be the Rudolf Riot, hosted by the Geelong club at their home course in Barwon Valley.



There has been some positive movement within Melbourne when it comes to course installs, as young Oscar Felberg was able to get a 3 basket trial course installed in Stony Creek Reserve in Yarraville. Hoping for more permanent baskets on the site, but what an amazing achievement for Oscar, a new member to the MDGC. A MDGC league day was run on the Stony Creek site, and was very well received by public and

members alike. There has also been some positive meetings and conversations with the City of Kingston, with regards to a permanent 9 hole course going in there. Not yet set in stone, but we are very hopeful that will go ahead in 2018.

A few Victorian players took their games to the big smoke, USA, this summer to have a crack at the big guns on the US Tour. Jarrath Sweeten played the qualifying round at USDGC, and Patrick Robinson got to play in the full tournament after qualifying at the Australian Open earlier in the year. Both really enjoyed the experience and checked out loads of courses in the motherland of disc golf. Dylan Feldman went over and played in the Amateur World Championships as a junior, and although he may not have had the result he was hoping for, has come home hungry! He is now playing Open division, and beat all contenders at the Kingston Classic; the young lad has a bright future in disc golf. Big congratulations to Cassie Sweeten as well, who became the first sponsored female in Australia, picking up a deal with Innova Australia, so many Roadrunners coming her way. Andrew Ferguson has again been hard at work upon his return to Victoria, still jetting all around Australia to install DiscGolfPark courses, and he was able to get pop kids show "TOTALLY WILD" to come and do a segment about disc golf at Barwon Valley. Well supported by both Geelong and MDGC junior players, the segment will hopefully be on TV soon, and may even have a sneaky ace by the Fergunator himself.

Melbourne said goodbye to their president, Racim Radjef, and their Vice President, Mat Adams, in 2017... The club wishes both of them the best of luck in their new homes of France and Brisbane! They will be missed.

All in all though, the Victorian Disc Golf scene is abuzz, bring on 2018!

Darren Stace-Smith

Vic state representative



# Western Australia Disc Golf Report

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In 2017, disc golf continued to grow in Western Australia, with increased participation in league days, tournaments, come and try days, and a noticeable increase in the amount of casual traffic on our courses. We saw the installation of a new 9 hole course; Alexander Heights DiscGolfPark in Alexander Heights, which brings greater course density to the northern suburbs.



## Perth Disc Golf Club

2017 has been a very busy year for the PDGC, running 6 successful tournaments over multiple courses, all the while growing their club player base. The PDGC have finished the renovation of their branded club trailer, which will assist with transportation of baskets to and from events. With a large volunteer base, they have been tirelessly preparing for the Australian Disc Golf Championships.

The PDGC League Days this year were sponsored once again by Sportspower Kingsway, and incorporated a new format allowing split tee times. 80 players entered the league days throughout the year.

PDGC ran two school events, a Rob Hancock Community event, variety of corporate events, and supplied discs for Girl Guides.

## Mundaring Sporting Club - Disc Golf Section

2017 was a great year for the Mundaring Sporting Club's Disc Golf Section. Over the year, the club's membership levels have grown to 39 members, which is almost a 50% increase over the previous 12 months. This has also come with an increased level of participation in their monthly league events. The club ran 5 tournaments including the Aussie Open.

The Mundaring Sporting Club tended stalls at two community events, gave away promotional Aviar discs during a coaching clinic held by Avery Jenkins and Eagle McMahon, and ran a putting clinic at Mundaring Sculpture Park featuring Des and Jay Reading.



## **ADG Tournaments in WA in 2017:**

### **Aussie Open (ADG A Tier - 70 entries)**

In 2017, the Mundaring Sporting Club hosted the first stop of the Disc Golf World Tour, and our only PDGA A-Tier Major event; the Aussie Open. This event saw 70 players travel from 8 countries to compete. The event was super hot on the first two days, then rainy and muggy on the third and fourth days, which meant that our international competitors had to endure everything Mundaring could throw at them.

### **Rob Hancock Memorial (ADG B Tier)**

The Rob Hancock Memorial event was run and well supported by many of the establishing members of the Perth Disc Golf Club.

### **Perth Open (ADG A Tier)**

Perth Disc Golf Club and Mundaring Sporting Club teamed up to host the Perth Open, split over two days at two of Perth's best tournament level courses. The tournament consisted of two rounds of 18 at Pine Lines on Saturday, followed by a round of 18 at Mundaring DiscGolfPark on Sunday. The scores were crunched and we headed out for a Final 9 consisting of Patrick Robinson, David Bandy, Kingsley Flett, and Dean Cushing. Patrick Robinson held his composure to take the win, and Dean Cushing achieved his personal goal of getting to the Final 9. The dual course format for this event went down a treat, as it made sure to test everybody's game to its limits.

### **Ice Breaker (ADG B Tier - 26 entries)**

The Ice Breaker was the first tournament to be run after the Perth Open, and uncharacteristically was run on a great weather Sunday in the middle of winter.

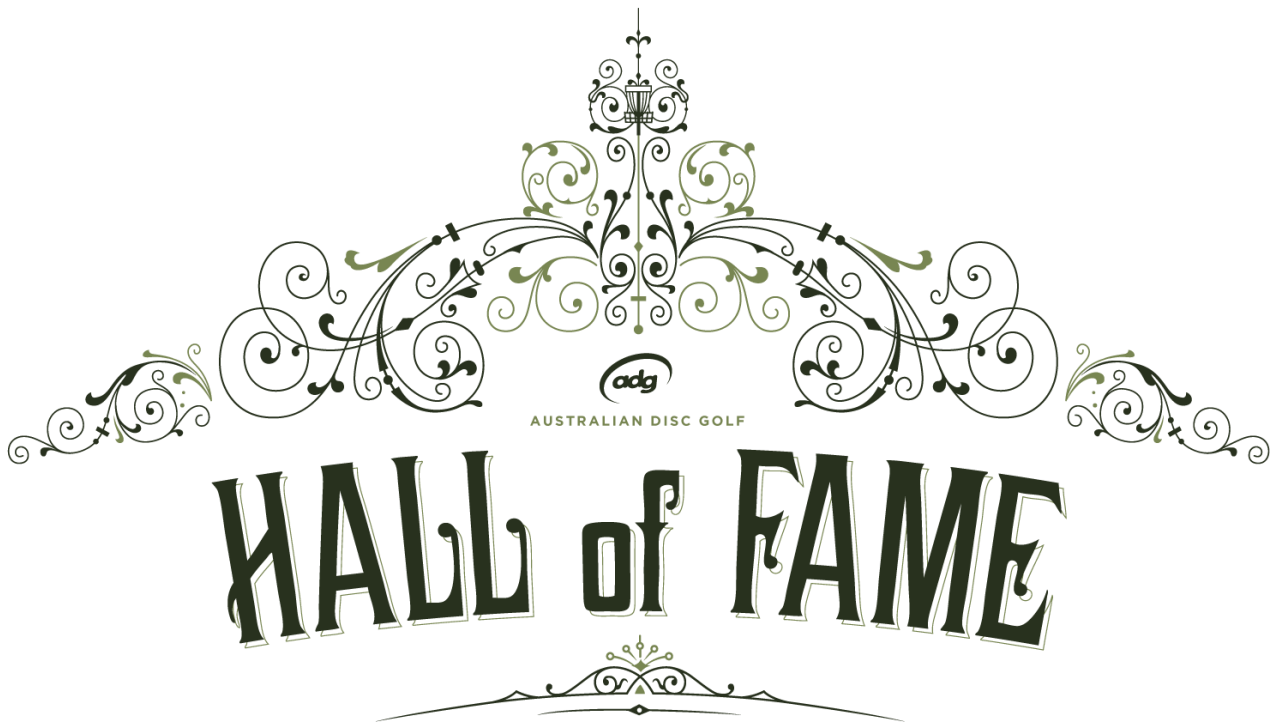
### **Okthrowberfest & Club Championships (ADG B Tier - 33 entries)**

Okthrowberfest was fairly well attended. The event was run as two rounds at Mundaring. In the morning 18 holes were played on the gold tees, and in the afternoon 18 holes were played on the white tees. Carl Bellesini performed extremely well on the day and was crowned the club champion.

Sam Thurtle

WA State Representative





Australian Disc Golf Hall of Fame inductees have made significant contributions to the sport of disc golf through development, promotion, leadership, or sportsmanship - that merits our recognition, remembrance and respect.

They have favourable standing and an honourable reputation within the disc golf community and give to the sport with a passion that transcends personal gain.

It is with great pleasure that the ADG Board induct Brian Vanallen and Chris Himing to the ADG Hall of Fame. We asked them to tell us a little about their disc golf lives and received the following responses which show the great legacy left by these two disc golf pioneers.

## **Brian Vanallen**

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It was the summer of 76 and I'd probably thrown a frisbee before but the big moment for me was when I met Dan 'The Stork' Roddick and Jo Cahow. My sister, Gail Lynch worked for Toltoys who had the rights for Frisbee™ in Australia at the time. Gail had organized a family picnic to welcome Dan and Jo and I can still remember being wowed at how they could make the frisbee dance. Freestyle was king back in those days, but we also played plenty of disc golf using object as targets. Discs of choice were the Toltoys Professional, the Super-Pro or the 141G World Class Frisbee. I was able to zing a few pretty good backhands back and forth without much effort. I was hooked.

Up until then I hadn't really been a sporting kid. I was too short for basketball, and whilst I played a bit of footy like every kid growing up in Melbourne at the time, I was ironed out by the school bully at a school

footy match. I didn't even get a free kick! So footy was out too. When Frisbee came along it seemed fun, non-contact and a little bit quirky. Following Dan & Jo's visit to Australia in 1976/77 the Australian Frisbee Association was formed in early 1977, with the support of Toltoys. I was on the first Committee.



Mark Powers, Laurie Dotto and Brian Vanallen

I stayed on the Committee up until 1979 when Mark Powers and myself were employed in a full-time capacity by Toltoys to be Co-directors of the Australian Frisbee Association (AFA). We set up an office in Lambert Rd, Caulfield, Victoria. This was Frisbee HQ. AFA membership forms had been placed in all Toltoys Frisbee so we processed these, produced a quarterly magazine, sent out membership certificates and stickers, ran Frisbee workshops at schools and promotions at shopping centres throughout Victoria. We also assisted with developing local associations in the other states.

In the summer of 1980/81 we toured the east coast with the Frisbee Pro Demo Tour. We had enlisted the help of a Canadian chap, Laurie Dotto, and we packed Frisbees, signage, promotional material and 9 chain basket disc golf pole holes in the back of an old Australia Post Transit Van, and drove up the east coast of Australia and then down to South Australia. We visited schools, summer camps, shopping centers and various festivals and events spreading the word. The Toltoys job was a dream position. We lived and breathed Frisbee – 24/7. We worked with other states to help develop their associations. A memorable road trip, by bus, across the Nullabor in 1979 to Perth, helped kick things along here.

I also travelled to the US for the World Flying Disc Championships in 1978, 79, 80 & 82. I was co-editor of the 'Australian Delay', the National Frisbee/Flying Disc Magazine, from the late 70's through to the mid 80's; and I was Tournament Director for the Australian Frisbee/Flying Disc Championships in 1978, 79, 80, 81, 83, and 87.

After a long break from official involvement I also came out of retirement to serve as Tournament Director World Ultimate Club Championship in 2006.



Brian Vanallen and Gail Lynch

The growth of disc golf has been fantastic to watch. The potential for the sport was evidenced following my first trip to the La Mirada Disc Golf Course in Los Angeles back in 1978. It blew our minds to see a professionally run disc golf course in a public park. But gaining traction in Australia has been slow. We set up courses in Melbourne and South Australia in the late 70's early 80's, Tassie of course had Poimena and then there's the Rob Hancock Memorial Course in Perth, but the exponential growth of public courses in the last few years is unbelievable. It's great to see that the ethos of the sport has been maintained...the courses are by and large public and free to play.

Nowadays I still play a bit of ultimate in Bunbury. I love the game as much now as when I was first exposed to the sport back in 1976. I've always loved Disc Golf too, but never managed to win the Aussie Champs in this discipline back when we ran a multi discipline championship. I came close in Sydney back in 1983. A dodgy putt on one of the last holes handed the title to the great Martin Ryland-Adair. I do try and get up for the Rob Hancock memorial Tournament every year. I would love to play more but time and distance are a problem. I hope to get back to disc golf in a bigger way in the years to come. I think there's still life in my 86 mold Softy Putters.

I feel pretty humbled to be acknowledged in this way. I haven't been involved in an official or organizational role for many years, apart from my brief stint at the world Ultimate Club Championships. So I'd like to express my heartfelt thanks to the ADG board for the recognition.

## Chris Himing

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I was given my first frisbee, a Wham-O Super-Pro, by my parents. I'd spend hours making up games with it, but little did I know that simply playing Frisbee would take me on a life path of adventure all over the world.

During high school in Bunbury I had heard of a teacher playing Frisbee with a few guys after school. I decided to check it out, and that was when I met Rob Hancock. From that day on I played as much as I could.

On any given weekend Rob would drive a few of us up from Bunbury to Perth just to play. We would stay at Rob's parents house and on Sunday mornings meet up with the Perth crowd to play at Yokine Reserve.

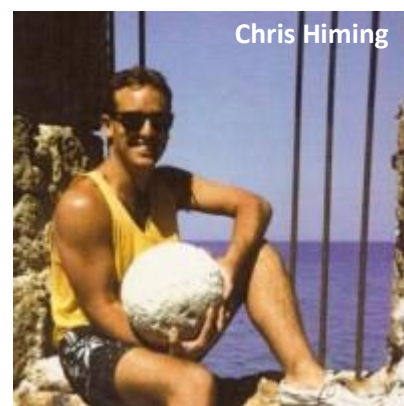
When Rob tragically passed in 1984 I decided to join 4 others and in Rob's honor, travel to Europe for 5 weeks, to compete at the World Championships in Sweden. It was a fantastic trip and it planted a seed - I was 16 years old at the time and all I wanted to do was travel.

In 1988 I took off on a backpacking trip around the world; and with a trusty old Frisbee in hand I played in all sorts of places and met new friends all over the globe. Returning home, the travel bug was still there so I found work on luxury cruise ships in the USA. Spending all that time at sea was not good for the game but a great way to see the world.

After playing the 1994 Japan Open, I loved the place so much I went back up there to live and later played the 95 and 96 events.

For some time, I'd set my sights on living and working in the US and due to making lots of contacts from years of travel I ended up in Texas in 1998. Working in disc golf and playing the tour in those days was fantastic. But after blowing out my knee (at Waco Texas - of all places), I couldn't play but still wanted to be around the game. Over a sleepless couple of nights, I devised a series of events, that I thought could spread all over Texas. A great way to keep involved and still hang out with everyone.

I noticed that with the large distances Texan's travelled to play, formal 2-day tournaments were too big a commitment for some, so my events would be 2-round, 1-day events where everyone was welcome. Despite my confidence I was a little shocked at how the events exploded in popularity and running the Texas-10 Tour quickly became a full time job. It was rare to find corporate sponsors outside of the sport back then, but we were successful in securing support from the likes of Budweiser, Outback Steakhouse and Hooters, which just further enhanced the appeal of the events.



I ran the Texas 10 full time for 6 years and raised over US\$80,000 for charity. Which charity? Lance Armstrong's foundation which became LiveStrong. I actually got to know Lance well while I was there and helped organize mountain bike events on his ranch amongst other corporate and sporting events. I even got to meet his friend Robin Williams a few times which was a true highlight. I was understandably devastated to hear, years later, about Lance's fall from grace. His foundation though, has always been one of the most effective charitable organizations in terms of converting donated dollar to servicing people in need and I had to remember the money raised all went to cancer survivors for the cause.

I was having fun, making a living, travelling the US and promoting disc golf. In between the Texas 10 I organized a variety of other events. One involved a 45-day road trip covering over 6000km across 4 states while running 36 events. We took this event to many small towns in remote locations which was a great experience albeit exhausting.

I started off what was called the 24 Hour Charity Marathon as small 3 location event in Texas. Players would play for 24 hours solid and raise money for the charity. The second year the event went global with around 75 locations hosting marathons.

One of my proudest achievements during the time running these events was introducing so many new people to the sport. These events were loved by first time players and pro's alike which made for a special atmosphere. The encouragement, introduction, and inclusion of more women and girls was a huge step forward. Our female players grew to record numbers at every event.

After so many years being away from home I decided it was time to pack up and see what Australia had to offer me again. I arrived home in late 2006 and was keen to see the Australian scene pick up. I worked with a few others to setup and structure the ADG and the ADG Tour. Trying to implement some ideas and tricks of the trade from years doing it full time in the US. I slowly drifted away from the sport to where I am today looking from afar.

As anyone who loves to travel will tell you it's not always about the places you see along the way but the people you meet. My life of travel and Frisbee has allowed me to see the world but importantly meet some amazing people. It really is true about it being a Frisbee Family and one I will always be thankful for.

#### Competition record

4 World Championships,

3 Japan Opens

2 USDGC (first aussie to compete at this event)

3 times Australian Disc Golf Champion

Multiple freestyle and DDC championships.



Photo from Chris Himing

\*first Australian to hold a disc golf World title winning the World Team Championships in Japan, alongside Crazy John Brooks and Sam Ferrans beating out 10 time World Champion Ken Climo in the process.

# AUSTRALIAN DISC GOLF 2018 A-TIER EVENTS

AUSTRALIAN DISC GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS PERTH, WA NOV 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>

DUDE PRO 2018 MUNDARING, WA JAN 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>

THE SIZZLER, ACT OPEN CANBERRA, ACT FEB 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

TWO HEADS DISC GOLF OPEN HOBART, TAS MARCH 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

VICTORIAN DISC GOLF OPEN DONCASTER, VIC APRIL 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DISC GOLF OPEN TBD, SA MAY 12<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>st</sup>

PERTH DISC GOLF OPEN TBD, WA JUN 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>

QUEENSLAND DISC GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS TBD, QLD JUL 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

INVERLEIGH DISC GOLF OPEN INVERLEIGH, VIC AUG 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>

GOLD COAST BYRON CLASSIC TBD, NSW SEPT 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>

NSW DISC GOLF OPEN RATHMINES OCT 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>

AUSTRALIAN DISC GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS WESTON PARK, ACT NOV 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>



For detailed event information go to our  
website [www.australiandiscgolf.com](http://www.australiandiscgolf.com)  
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