



# Annual Report

## 2020 ADG Board

Chairperson	Luke Turnbull
Vice chairperson	Ken Summers
Treasurer	Martin Ryland-Adair
Secretary	Emilie Cameron
Director of competitions	Paul Arden
Director of communications	Kingsley Flett
Director of development	Steven Wright
ACT representative	Todd Nowack
Qld representative	Simon Tanner
NSW representative	Neil Roberts
VIC representative	Cameron Ford
TAS representative	Oliver Mundy-Castle
SA representative	Ryan Nicholson
WA representative	Jacob Stanley

# 2020

# 2020

# Annual Roundup

## ADGC 2019



Photo by Kingsley Flett

It seems like longer but it was only this time last year that we last congregated 'en masse' at the Australian Disc Golf Championships (ADGC) presented by Prodigy Discs in Mount Gambier, South Australia. The event saw the largest field for ADGC with 100 players. The growing numbers attending the event meant the field was split into 2 pools across two courses. One was at the Attamurra golf course where the regular ball golfers enjoyed seeing a different kind of golf being played. The other the picturesque signature course at Crater Lakes Disc Golf Park.

Located in an extinct volcano the course has trees, elevation changes and water hazards all under the shadow of a historic watch tower. Over the weekend it certainly earned its spot as one of the top courses in the country.

Running over 3 days participants had plenty of time to enjoy the sights of Mount Gambier. TD Ryan Nicolson and his crew did a lot of work promoting the event in the area and it was great to see the local council, media and businesses get behind the event. Cafes and other businesses whose names appeared as sponsors of the event enjoyed increased patronage and knew all about disc golf and how the event was going by the end. Player dinners were well attended with the golf club proving a good meeting spot to catch up on the results of the day.



Photo by Kingsley Flett

After some tight battles it was Patrick Robinson who came away with the win. On the women's side Toosje Frequin had the best rounds. Congratulations to all the winners.



Photo by Kingsley Flett



Photo by Kingsley Flett

# COVID response

And then COVID hit. On March 14<sup>th</sup> as news of COVID19 grew in Australia the ADG board released a statement advising players to follow health department guidelines, to not attend events when sick and outlining hygiene and social distancing rules to follow. At this stage events could still run. Things moved quickly from there. On March 17<sup>th</sup> PDGA suspended all event sanctioning till March 31<sup>st</sup>. This date was later extended to April 30<sup>th</sup> then May 31<sup>st</sup>. Similarly, AFDA cancelled all on-field flying disc activities until May 18<sup>th</sup>. On March 18<sup>th</sup> the board held an emergency meeting to discuss our approach to the worsening pandemic. Under discussion was whether to postpone or cancel events, how long for and which events were affected. A decision was made by the board to suspend all ADG sanctioned events until 18<sup>th</sup> May. The suspension included all A, B, C and X tier tournaments and leagues. This decision was announced via our Facebook page, website and emails to all members and affiliated clubs.



As May 18<sup>th</sup> approached it became clear that we would not be able to lift the ban on sanctioning events uniformly around the country. The effect that this had on the 2020 ADG tour through uncertainty over rescheduling of events, border closures and restrictions coming back led to the decision to cancel the 2020 tour.

The suspension on sanctioning ADG events ended up lasting until June 3<sup>rd</sup> when the board released the ADG COVID-safe return to play guidelines. These outlined the steps that clubs could take to resume sanctioned events and were based on the Australian government's framework for rebooting sport. There was a checklist for TDs to follow to ensure they had the right approval for their event, risk minimisation strategies for TDs and players and requirements for participation. A short version for players was also released for clubs to share with players prior to events.



In May the PDGA released requirements that country associations could follow to have event sanctioning reinstated. This included proof of government guidelines allowing organised outdoor sporting competitions and following all local restrictions. ADG negotiated that we could do this state-by-state. SA was the first to take this up with PDGA approval to resume sanctioning on June 4<sup>th</sup>. This process proved to be very quick and other states soon followed.

SA was also first to get leagues back, with Mount Gambier hosting a league on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Other clubs also started up local events and with exercise equipment in most parks now reopened players started venturing from their backyard putting stations back to their local course. People seemed keen to get back outside with many leagues recording record numbers.

Then on June 15<sup>th</sup> we announced that ADGC 2020 due to be held in Inverleigh Victoria would be called off. With restrictions easing this decision came as a shock to many players. The decision was made after extensive discussions between ADG and the ADGC TDs and was explained in a post by Geelong Disc Golf. In hindsight we now all know this was absolutely the right decision.

It has been a rough year for many and we want to take this opportunity to thank the Australian disc golf community for following the guidelines and supporting the tough decisions that the board made this year.



## Social Distancing While Playing Disc Golf



Much is still unknown about COVID-19 but it's clear that this is an aggressively contagious virus. While state-based restrictions are being lifted across the country in the coming months, it will be some time until we can relax our vigilance about this disease. Disc Golf must be played in Australia under the following conditions.

### **No gathering (Get in – play- get out)**

Communication that was previously done in a gathering of players, needs to be passed on another way. Players meetings and award ceremonies can be conducted online. Information can be provided in written or video format via social media and email.

### **No touching**

High fives, fist bumps, bum taps, bro & sis hugs and even ye-olde fashioned handshake were all a big part of the disc golf experience, and we'll miss them. But for the time being they cannot be part of how we play the game.

### **No Sharing**

You will have to be prepared to play disc golf more self-sufficiently than you did in the past. This means no shared water bottles or food, no provided water on the course and no catered lunches. It also means no loaning and borrowing discs, bags, minis, pencils, towels, bags or any other equipment. You also need to bring your own hand sanitiser and use it regularly throughout the round.

### **OK Some Sharing**

We have to share baskets of course but we minimise this risk by touching only our disc and none of the metal when we are retrieving it. We may also be sharing some public ablutions; we manage this risk by making use of hand sanitiser.

### **Keep your distance**

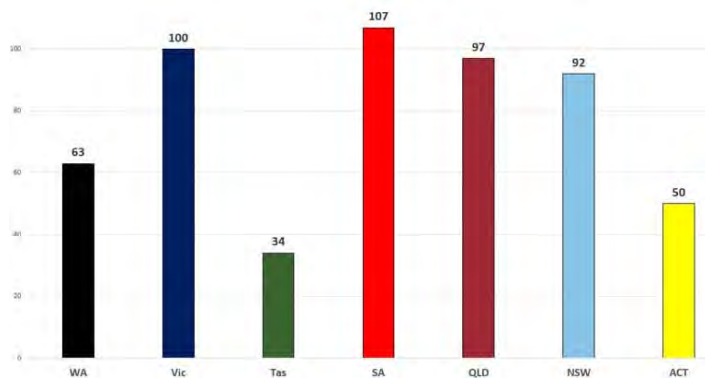
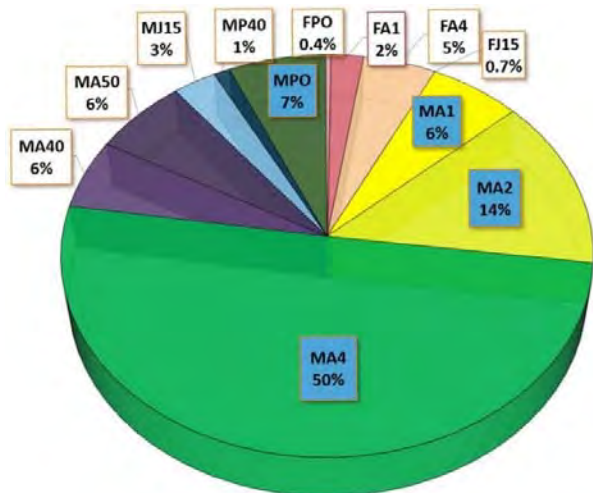
1.5m minimum, always. This is easy to do on the fairway but pay special attention to this around the tee-pad. Let the thrower exit the tee box after their throw before you enter it.

# Aussie Disc Golf Day



On November 21<sup>st</sup> more than 500 Disc Golfers in 16 venues all over Australia played in a virtual tournament brought about by the Covid-19 travel restrictions. The **Aussie Disc Golf Day** started out as a consolation event for an Australian Championships that had been cancelled. However, the event mushroomed into the largest tournament in the history of the sport in Australia. The idea was that clubs would host small events for local players on the same day. Each player registered by Nov 1<sup>st</sup> would get a disc and enjoy a fun day of disc golf competition. Something that had been missing for many during lockdown. The results would then all be pooled using the PDGA’s rating algorithm creating a large virtual tournament with players vying for bragging rights in each division.

A total of over 600 players registered for events held throughout the country in Townsville, Sunshine coast, Brisbane, Dubbo, Newcastle, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Inverleigh, Hobart, Burnie, Mount Gambier, Adelaide, Waikiki, Perth and Tom Price. Signalling the recent growth of the port over 50% of the field were registered in Novice divisions.



The overall event was run by the ADG board with Luke Turnbull, Kingsley Flett and Emilie Cameron driving the planning. PDGA’s Steve Ganz was instrumental in helping set up the virtual event. Many factors were considered in coming up with the model for the event. The format meant that remaining restrictions could be adhered to such as gathering sizes and social distancing while giving some of the feel of a large tournament. Discs came from Fourth Circle Discs, an Australian disc manufacturer thereby reducing shipping times and allowing the order to be increased when it was realised that this was going to be bigger than expected. By providing the discs for players the ADG took on most of the risks from clubs in case restrictions were put back in place. The model also allowed flexibility in individual event planning in uncertain times. This paid off when restrictions were announced in SA meaning their events had to be postponed. Showing the true community spirit of disc golfers there was wide support for the decision to allow them an extra 3 weeks to hold their event.

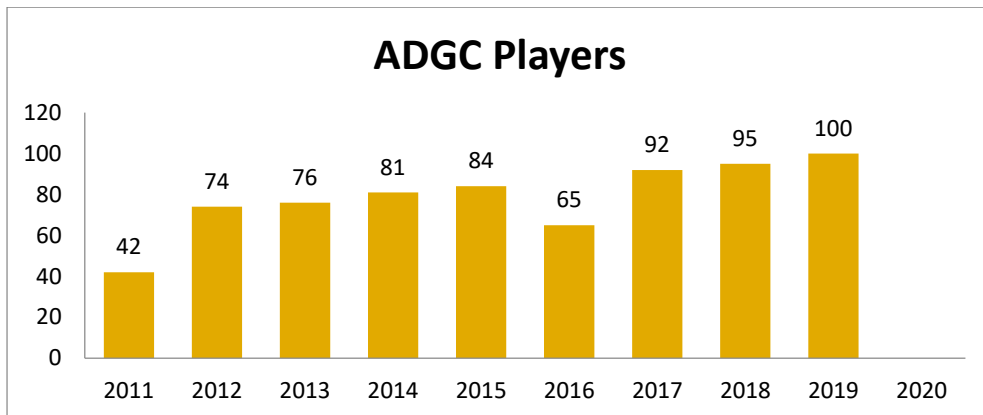
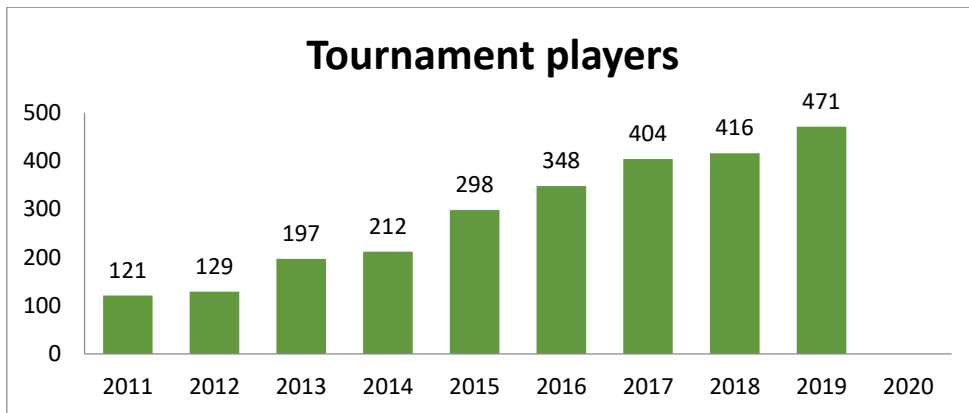
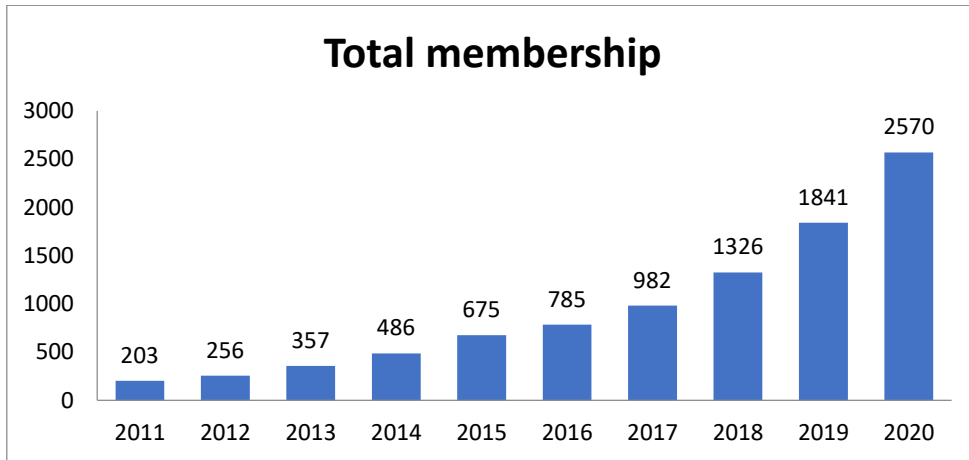


Photo by Jonathan Jonas

# Growth -members

Despite most of the country not being able to play for extended periods this year we had more new members join ADG than ever before. Any player competing in an ADG tour tournament or league day needs to sign up as an ADG member. Membership is free. While the system does not capture casual players it is a good indication of the growth of the sport. To the start of November, we had over 700 new members compared to 500 at the same time last year. This continues a trend seen around the world this year as people discover a new outdoor sport which lends itself to social distancing. Reports from disc sellers echo this growth with large increases in disc sales.

Looking at graphs of the 10 year growth of the sport in Australia you can see an upward trend in ADG member numbers, tournament players and ADGC participation.





# New courses

Despite restriction four new courses were installed across Australia this year. That brings the number of courses in the country to 79 (according to flyspot). In Queensland there were three new courses installed while in Adelaide a brand new course installed near the city centre has opened the door to disc golf for many people in the city who would not have otherwise seen it.

## Qld

On June 6<sup>th</sup> the brand new course at Toowoomba was installed, a 9-hole, par 30 beauty located at Black Gully Reserve. Andrew Stanley was the lead on this effort to get a course installed in Toowoomba and after a couple of years he succeeded in getting this lush wooded course installed. Installation of this course has already created a buzz within the local community with local TV news crews coming out on multiple occasions to film the players enjoying the new course.



July was a big month for disc golf in Brisbane. First was the removal of the Yeronga Course at Fehlberg park. Established in 2007 this course had been the home of the Brisbane Disc Golf

club for many years but due to the increasing population density in the surrounding area it was decided that the course would have to find a new location. 5km away a suitable park was chosen and the 12 hole Rocklea Disc Golf Course at Frenay st Park was born. During the process of choosing the location for this course Brisbane City Council approached Aaron Moreton from Queensland Disc Golf with an idea to form an additional course. Through many further discussions and meetings the 18 hole Carindale Disc Golf Course was approved. The installation of both these new courses has seen an explosion in new players coming to the sport with record turnouts at league days and events in the area.

## Adelaide

Installation of the Adelaide Park Lands course was 6 years in the making and took many hands along the way but it was finally completed in May. The result is a par 28 9-hole challenge with a surprising amount of elevation change that cleverly uses the creek lines and a 100 year old olive grove to create some tight fairways. Evidence of the success of this course can be seen in that it has already become the second most played course in Australia this year according to the international website, Disc Golf Metrix. As a result the Adelaide Disc Golf Club has also seen great growth in numbers for its league days.



## Increased media engagement

Building on our increased social media engagement from last year we continued to see good engagement and reach this year. We had a 13% increase in followers of the ADG page, 10% increase in Instagram followers and started a Youtube channel. In the month leading up to Aussie Disc Golf Day, The Australian Disc Golf Championships Facebook page reached 6,103 people with 4,704 post engagements.

The trend to present well researched stories in traditional media also continued. There were good stories in the Border Watch of Mount Gambier around the hosting of Nationals and reporting of results and the Glenoutchy Gazette reporting on the Tasmania Championships. 7 news Toowoomba did a news story about the new course interviewing Andrew Stanley and filming on location. The Courier Mail and ABC breakfast Brisbane also covered the new courses in Qld. Media in the Central West of NSW continued their coverage of the disc golf course with a story on the NSW championships returning to Molong. The benefits of engaging local media were seen in Newcastle where the ABC breakfast presenter was heard talking about disc golf using her knowledge from an interview conducted 5 years earlier. The club were then able to set up an interview and were contacted again in the lead up to Aussie Disc Golf day. Perhaps the biggest disc golf news stories came out of Melbourne. Emma Winkworth was interviewed on ABC Grandstand and the ABC Melbourne breakfast show where Sammy J made up a song to accompany the story. There was also a very well researched piece by Jewel Topsfield appearing in The Age newspaper and featuring Oscar Feldberg and Jeff Brunsting.

A lot of this is due to the work of director of communications Kingsley Flett who has built up a vast library of press releases and photos to accompany any story. Kingsley also had stories of his own published in Ultiworld and the PDGA Discgolfer magazine, appeared on Terry Miller's SmashBoxx podcast and was described by Simon Beaumont on NewsTalk 6PR in Perth as the most unusual person he knows.

Article in Courier Mail



Archer, 10, and Tasman, 7, Shaw have adopted the new game, disc golf, at Carindale. Picture: Josh Woning

### DISC GOLF SUCCESS IN THE FLICK OF WRIST

**MICHELLE COLLINS**

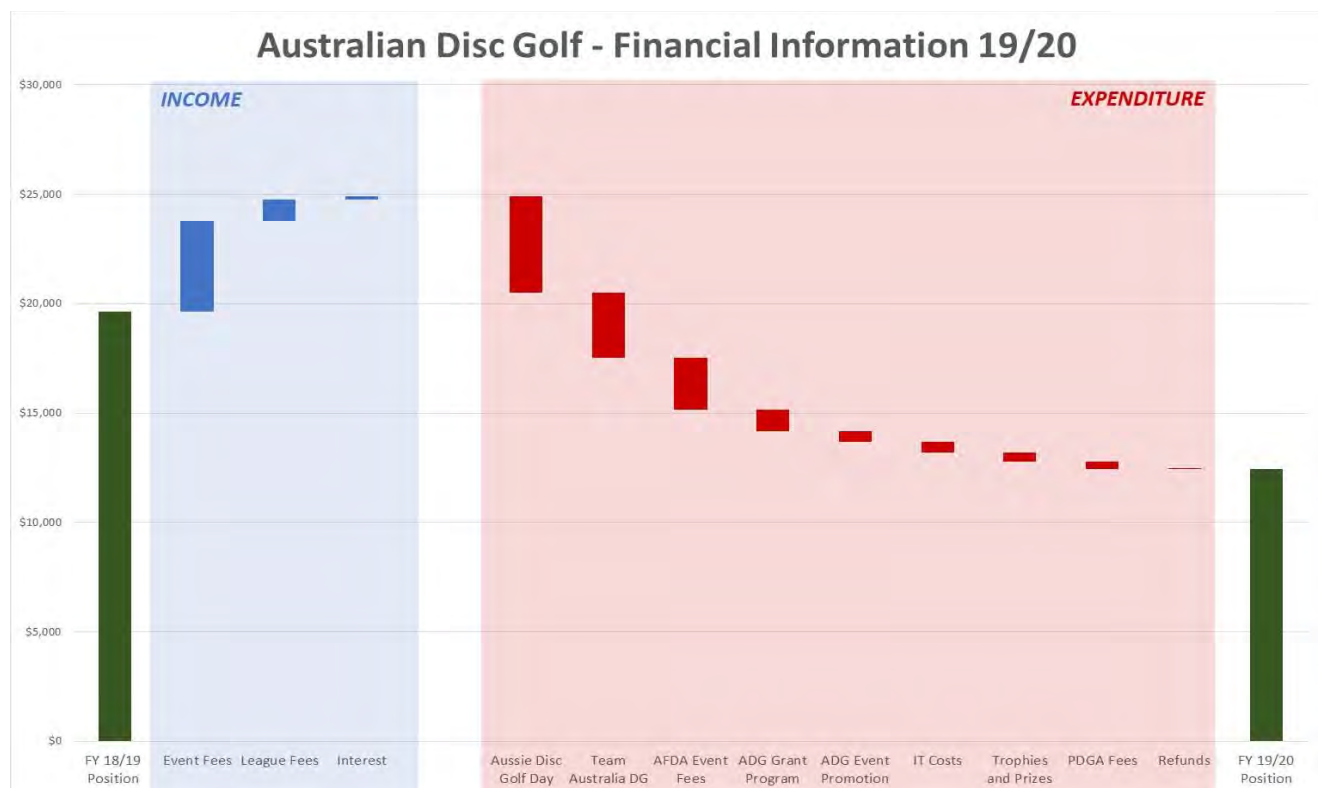
IT is one of the cheapest and most accessible sports to play – that no one has ever heard of. But that could be about to change with a new disc golf course in Carindale. Brisbane City Council has installed the 18-hole course in Cadogan Street Park to cater for the growing number of social and club disc golfers. There is also a course in Freney Street Park in Rocklea. It is like the name suggests, the same as traditional golf but played with a frisbee. Competitors aim to hit their targets which are raised baskets – in the least number of throws. Aaron Moreton, president of the Brisbane Disc Golf Club and the Queensland Disc Golf Association says when he started playing a decade ago there were probably only one or two dozen regular players. That number, he says, is now upwards of a thousand. In the past month, Brisbane Disc Golf has added 150 new members.



# 2019/20

# Financial Report

The Australian Disc Golf (ADG) financial year ran from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020. As of the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 ADG held \$12,451.16 in its bank accounts. This is compared to last year's financial position of \$19,653.80 as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.



Event based fees are the major source of annual income for ADG. There was a large decrease in event based income when compared to last year due in no small part to the effects of the Covid19 pandemic which forced the cancellation of many events. This year ADG event based fees for tournament and leagues amounted to \$4,127.98 as compared to \$7,168.59 last year. Some event invoices will be paid after August 31<sup>st</sup>.

In preparation for Aussie Disc Golf Day, we incurred a large one-off cost of \$4400 for promotional discs. Event based fees for this day will be included in next year's financial statement. 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, \$3.30 per competitor for Australian Disc Golf Championships and \$0.50 for leagues. These charges applied as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 and are per event not per day. In 2019 we incurred costs of \$2346.25. For 2020 to date, we owe the AFDA \$1374.30 in fees. This will be paid after Aussie disc golf day 2020, where upon I would expect the amount owed to be around \$2000. ADG incurred costs of \$426 for tour trophies and \$325 for PDGA memberships for tour winners. A \$1000 grant was given to Central West Disc Golf to help with the installation of a course at Molong. Additional costs included IT costs of \$476 and event promotion of \$482. The final \$2989 of the \$3,960 donated to support the world team players in 2018/19 was paid out of the account during this accounting period.

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# 2021

## ADG Tour

The 2021 tour is still being finalised and will be released shortly