

# Annual Report 2021

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# By the Numbers

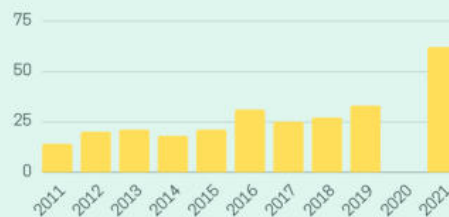
## Courses in Australia

**86**  
**TOTAL**



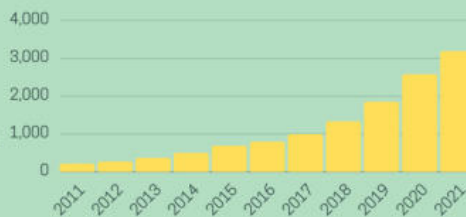
## Tournaments on ADG tour

**62**  
**IN**  
**2021**



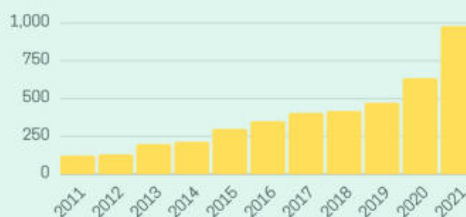
## ADG members

**3178**  
**TOTAL**



## Tournament players

**978**  
**IN**  
**2021**



# From the Board

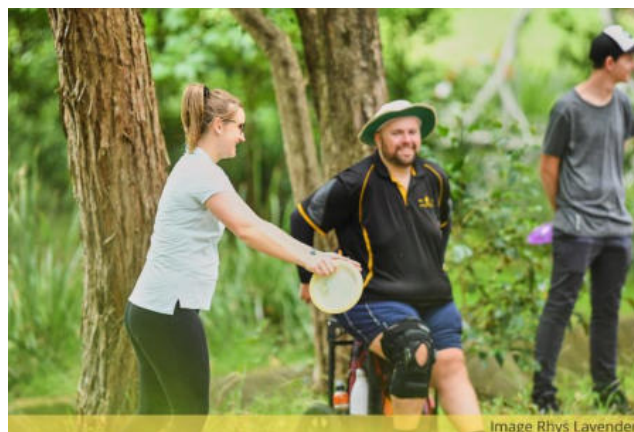
## 2021 ADG Board

Chairperson	Luke Turnbull
Vice chairperson	Ken Summers
Treasurer	Martin Ryland-Adair
Secretary	Emilie Cameron
Director of competitions	Paul Arden
Director of communications	Kingsley Flett
ACT representative	Tom Rugg
QLD representative	Simon Tanner
NSW representative	Kevin Costa (Neil Roberts at start)
VIC representative	Michael Spangenberg (Cameron Ford at start)
TAS representative	Oliver Mundy-Castle
SA representative	Ryan Nicholson
WA representative	Dave Kynaston
WFDF representative	Sue Summers

## Further COVID disruptions

2021 was another year with interruptions due to COVID. While the tour was able to go ahead, it has been quite disrupted. Events have been cancelled, merged and rescheduled. Some large events have been able to run but been limited to local players and those able to travel.

In September the decision was made by event organisers and the ADG board to postpone the 2021 Australian Disc Golf Championships. Inverleigh were originally due to host ADGC in Nov 2020. This was rescheduled to Nov 2021 and will now be held on Feb 24<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> 2022. This means that while 2021 is a tour year with no championships, 2022 will be a year with two!



## Respect document

You may have noticed when you register for a tournament that there has been a change to the code of conduct. The previous code of conduct document was created before social media and was due for an upgrade. After seeking input from our members and discussions on the ADG Board we voted in our new Respect Agreement on Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup> 2021. All new and current members must agree to abide by the respect agreement.

We've grown to over 3000 members in the past decade and this time has shown that all but very few people instinctively understand and comply with what is essentially a common sense set of guidelines. As our numbers continue to grow though, we may find times when we need to show some cultural leadership on respect. Because respect is part of the glue that holds our growing social movement together. This is our [respect agreement](#).

**I agree to respect the game of disc golf.**

**I agree to respect other ADG members.**

**I agree to respect the environment in which disc golf is played.**

**I agree to show respect to the community in which disc golf is played.**

## Updated course list

This year ADG board member Dave Kynaston undertook the task of reconciling the [PDGA course listings](#) for Australia with those listed on [Flyspot](#), a database of Australian disc golf courses. Where needed courses were updated, added, deleted and checked. When this job was completed in May there were 79 courses listed on Flyspot. Since then new courses have been installed at Tinana (QLD), Meridan Downs (QLD), RAAF (Vic), North Ryde common (NSW), Valentine Park (QLD), Lewis Park (VIC), Shark Disc Park (VIC). The current course total stands at 86.

## Grant program

The North Ryde course was installed with the help of a grant from ADG. Getting an additional course in Sydney was a big selling point of the application. ADG also provided support to the Australian Women's Global Event tournaments by supplying players packs to participants. These were the official players packs from PDGA and were sent to all 7 Australian tournaments.

Applications for grants are now be accepted throughout the year. The ADG Board will review applications bi-annually in February and August of each year.



## TD mentoring program

2021 saw the launch of the TD mentoring program. Under this program a new Tournament director (TD) is paired with an experienced TD, working through a [checklist of competencies](#). This can be done locally with the two acting as co-TDs or remotely with advice and guidance provided. When the checklist is complete a certificate is awarded. The successful candidate will then be known as an ADG Accredited Tournament Director.

Tournament directors are an essential driver of disc golf events. As our sport grows we need more TDs who are confident, capable and willing to run events to cater for the growing demand. Directing tournaments is a rewarding creative outlet requiring skills in promotion, marketing, logistics, local government liaison and event management. By widening the pool of tournament directors in Australia we hope to spread the workload of running events. The Tournament Director Mentoring Program also ensures that events in Australia continue to be run at a high standard. We want disc golf to be more than a sporting pastime for people. We want it to be a sport that develops its people. To be an agency of positive social development in the community.

The board recognises the work that Kingsley Flett has put into developing this program, to get it running and maintaining through the year.





# Re-launched tour

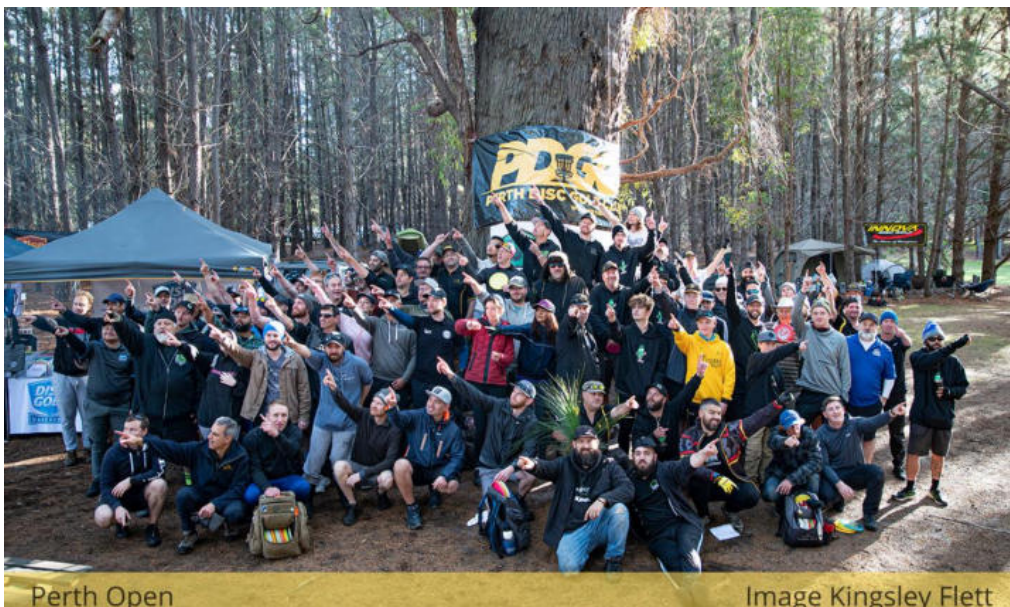
One of the main things that the ADG board offers is the ADG Tour. Each year we spend time discussing what is working and what isn't, whether changes are needed and the effect that any changes will have and what our members are telling us they want. Most years small tweaks are made to accommodate the changing player base and TD needs. Ahead of the 2022 tour, however, big changes are being implemented. We are changing the timeframe so ADGC will be the final event, we are adding Major events to the tier schedule and adding 5 new divisions.

	<p><b>TIMEFRAME</b> TOUR ENDS WITH ADGC</p>	<p><b>EVENTS</b> INTRODUCING MAJOR EVENTS</p>	
	<p>Each year's tour will begin in Jan and finish at the Australian Disc Golf Championships in Nov. Winners will be announced at an online event.</p>	<p>The tour will have 4 levels - ADGC, Major, A and B tiers. Each year there will be 1 ADGC or 1 Major per state; and unlimited A and B tier events.</p>	
<p><b>POINTS</b> MORE TOUR POINTS ON OFFER</p>			<p><b>PLAYERS</b> PDGA MEMBERSHIP</p>
<p>Tour points are awarded based on where a player finishes in a division. Base rates are ADGC (150 pts), Major (120 pts), A tier (100 pts), and B tier (80 pts).</p>			<p>Players need to be PDGA members to accumulate tour points. Players who are not PDGA members can still play events they just wont get ADG tour points.</p>
	<p><b>DIVISIONS</b> NEW TOUR DIVISIONS ADDED</p>	<p><b>ADGC ROTATION</b> HOST STATE FOR ADGC ON FIXED CYCLE</p>	
	<p>FPO, FA2, FA40, MP40 and MA3 added as tour divs and offered at all events. MA4 will be offered at events but will not accumulate tour points.</p>	<p>ADGC will move from VIC to QLD, TAS, NSW, WA, ACT, SA and back to VIC. Changes to the cycle will occur if required.</p>	

# Events filling

2021 brought a new challenge for Tournament Director's running ADG events - player demand. ADGC in Inverleigh saw 70 registrations within 15 minutes of opening, 139 before midnight on the first day and a complete sell out before three days had passed. Wait lists are now almost a requirement at all events, including smaller local B-Tier events. Some events moved to a tee time format, added extra or ghost holes or split the field to increase capacity.

At ADG we have made changes to the tour to help accommodate demand. New tour standards have been introduced including the addition of Major events with a capacity of 144 players. We are now allowing unlimited A and B Tier events to increase the number of events held in a region.



Perth Open

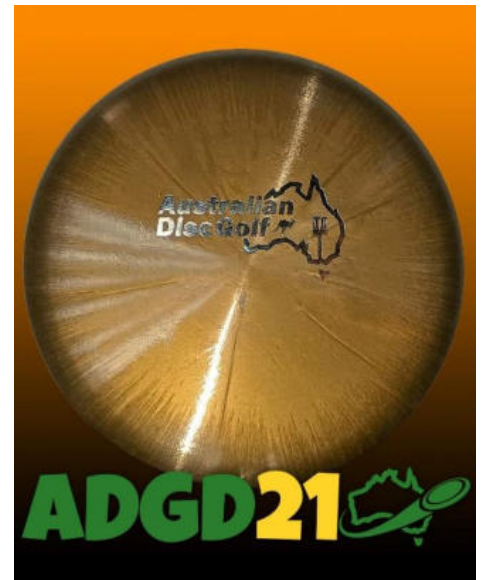
Image Kingsley Flett

# Annual Highlights

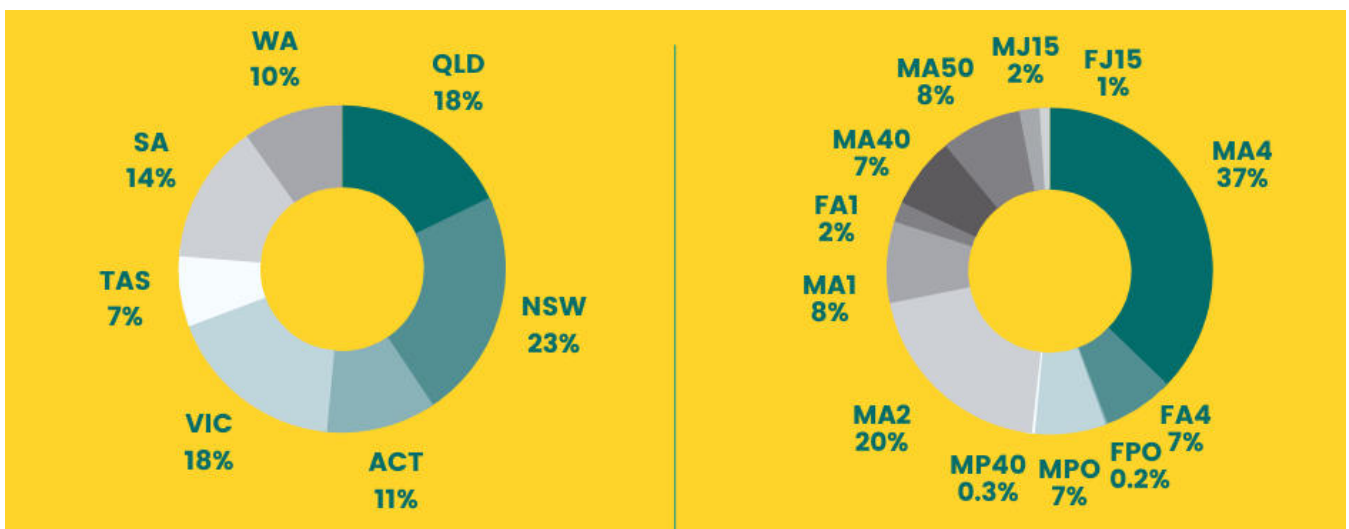
## ADGD

Aussie Disc Golf Day returned this year after its debut in 2020. The idea is that clubs all over the country run local events on the same day with all results entered a virtual tournament so players can be ranked against each other and bragging rights awarded in each division. The feedback we received in 2020 was overwhelmingly positive with lots of demand for the event to return. And the turnout showed the popularity of this format.

There was a total of 588 players across 18 events held on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov. That is at least 2 events in each state and the ACT. Compared to ADGD in 2020 there were 4 more events and 90 more players. The biggest increase in players was seen in Tassie (more than doubled participation) and NSW (added 57%). 41% of players this year also played last year. For 186 players it was the first ADG tour event played this year. While the spread of players across divisions stayed fairly constant there was a 28% increase in female participation fuelled by growing numbers in FA4. MA4 remained the largest division but it looks like players are improving and moving up as MA2 experienced the biggest increase in players (60%).



A huge thank you to all the TDs who make this event possible (Jonathan Dragt, Ashley Gabe, Rhys Kruger, Aaron Moreton, Sam Rubock, Shaun Archer, Tom Rugg, Kev N Bob Costa, Connor Donnelly, Sean Gottschling, Lee Thompson Matt Hill, Darren Stace, Michelle Schulz, Jonathan Jonas, Neil Roberts, Rhys Wisniewski, Jeff Wall, Nathan Thomas, Sean Dobbs, Michael Canci, Brittini Leigh Ramsay, Trent Pease), Steve Ganz at the PDGA who set up and managed the virtual tournament and Alex Brindle who did the logo. The whole event was overseen by Luke Turnbull, Kingsley Flett and Emilie Cameron.



**588** total players  
(498 in 2020)

**18** events  
(14 in 2020)

**8%** in pro divisions  
**10%** in female divisions  
**3%** in junior divisions  
**15%** in masters divisions



# WGE

The Women's Global Event is a worldwide tournament held every 2 years by the PDGA to encourage female participation. This year the 2020 postponed WGE was held on May 8<sup>th</sup>. In Australia we had 87 women take part across 7 events competing in 11 divisions. This was a massive increase from past years (2012: 3 women at 1 event, 2014: 6 women at 1 event, 2016: 7 women at 2 events, 2018: 31 women at 2 events). It was great to see events held all around the country and to see so many female TDs or Co-TDs (thanks Cassie Sweetten, Kairi Koobakene, Sue Summers, Caryn Cameron and Sharon Costa). For Shark Disc Park in South Gippsland, Vic it was the first ever tournament. ADG supplied official PDGA players packs for participants and many sponsors came on board.

A standout event was that held in Perth as the only female only event in the country. TD Sue Summers did a lot of work to promote the event through local media, parliamentary members and disc golf and ultimate clubs. This paid off with 37 women playing on the day. The event was tailored towards the target audience, beginners, with a focus on having fun. To this end they had 2 rounds of 13 holes (the minimum requirement) and did need a couple of men to play as propagators. To help build up to the event and continue the momentum afterwards, Sue started a women's social disc golf Facebook group which meets weekly and has reached over 40 members.



Following WGE Sarah Lee started a women's league with the aim of making disc golf more accessible for women in Adelaide and increasing gender equity. The league runs once a month over 9 or 18 holes and includes a 20min coaching session. Costs are kept low (\$5 for 6 months) and they have plenty of prizes thanks to sponsors. They get an average of 10 women to each and have seen an increase in female participation at other events as a result.

**“Some new players played casual rounds but felt too intimidated to go straight into the mixed league. They found the women's league much more inviting. They have now been able to build the skills and confidence to start playing the mixed league days, random format days and even ADG tournaments.”**



Adelaide League

Image supplied by Sarah Lee

## Rise of the Juniors

In a year that saw 16 year old Evan Scott win the PDGA Amateur Worlds and 15 year old Micah Groth win \$10,000 for the top spot in the NADGT National Championships (USA), Australia too has seen its share of outsize performance from some very talented junior players. A crop of youngsters has emerged who are impressing with skill and results which surpass all expectation for their age and experience.

WA's Blake Houston is 15 years old and played in MPO division throughout 2021. In competition he has taken second place in five events and the win in two events including the 'Eruption' at Mount Gambier, becoming the youngest player ever to win an ADG A-Tier event. Also from WA, 13 year old Alex Kynaston took fourth in MPO at the A-Tier Perth Open and a third at Okthrowberfest. In a dramatic finish at WA's Aussie Disc Golf Day – Spearwood event, Alex and Blake were tied first and entered a play-off. Blake took the event win whilst Alex held the highest average rated round for the event at 947. Both Alex and Blake finished in the top third of MPO competitors nationally at ADGD!



Blake Houston

Image Kingsley Flett

In Tasmania another 13 year old, Atticus Ariston, won six from six events entered this year, three being in Mens Advanced (MA1) division. He had the best overall score in the Tassie Open in Burnie and also the ADGD event in Hobart. While in Victoria Ryan Hart threw two blistering rounds at the Inverleigh Open (averaging 931 rating) to beat 216 players and take out the national MA4 title for Aussie Disc Golf Day.

Hot on the heels of these players are the ADGD <15 Junior winner Shyam Bhatia (ACT) and <15 Junior Girls winner Lydia Philpott (NSW) both clocking up impressive performances to take the ADGD bragging rights by a good margin.

The skill and success of these young players is fantastic to see. They pave the way for attracting more juniors to play, and in the future may well be representing Australia on the world stage.

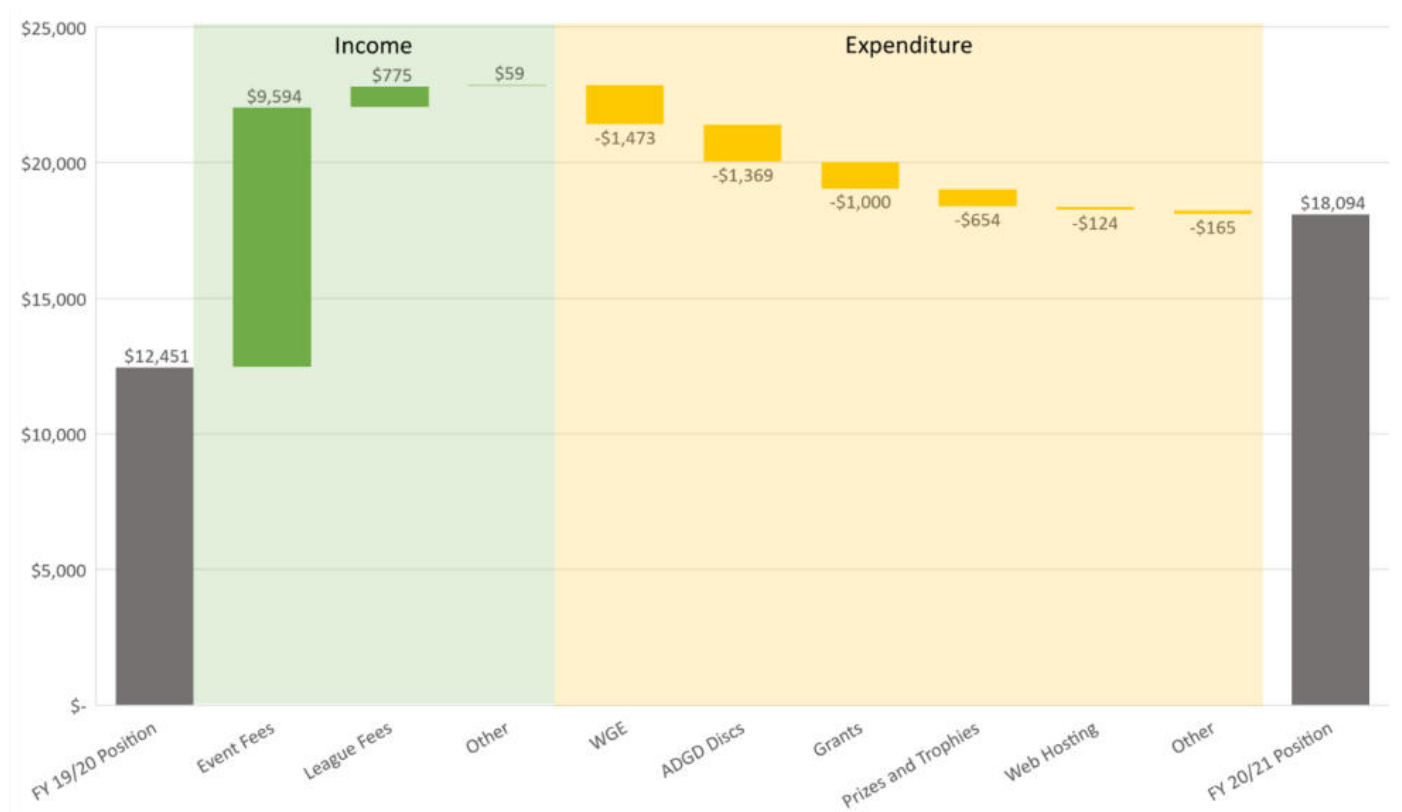
Final mention goes to an inspiring achievement by another young disc golfer. This year WA's Connor Donnelly, who whilst still 18 years of age became the youngest Tournament Director on record for an ADG sanctioned event (the Mundilorian WA). This likeable young leader is also an executive committee member for Mundaring Disc Golf Club and is in his own right a talented player with impressive MA1 division wins at the Eruption in Mt Gambier, and also WA's ADGD event at Curtin University (which he also TD'd!). Hats off to Connor, an amazing role model for the younger players.

Well done all!



# Financial Report 2020/21

The ADG financial year ran from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021. As of the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 ADG held \$18,094.01 in its bank accounts. This is compared to last year's financial position of \$12,451.16 as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020. We do however have ~\$5,000 to be paid in AFDA fees covering events held across 2020/2021.



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 due in no small part to the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic which led to increased participation due to the perceived safety of disc golf and a number of “catch up” events. This year ADG event based fees amounted to \$9,594.24 as compared to \$4,127.98 last year. Income from fees was \$7,168.59 in 2019. I note some invoices from this year have been paid after August 31<sup>st</sup>.

The main expenditure items for ADG in 2021 were discs and grants. Additional ADGD discs were purchased in 2020 due to the high demand for that event. In May 2021, ADG was proud to support the Women's Global Event with the purchase and distribution of players packs for participants. A \$1,000 grant was provided for the installation of North Ryde Disc Golf course in Sydney.

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.

Martin Ryland-Adair, Treasurer