

ANNUAL REPORT

AUSTRALIAN CURLING FEDERATION



Year ending

2023

Australian Curling Federation

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www.curling.org.au

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HISTORY

The Australian Curling Federation is the governing body that leads, develops and promotes the sport of Curling in Australia. We aid and support the individual State Associations and their grassroots endeavours to advance Curling whilst providing a pathway for curlers to compete at National and International events, including the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

The first curling club in Australia formed in 1933 in Melbourne. Sir Norman Brooks – Wimbledon winner in 1907 and 1914, AFL footballer and Australian Golf Open winner – was the first President. The club was subsequently disbanded in 1939. In 1984, curling reappeared in Australia and the Australian Curling Association formed international links with the International Curling Federation (now the World Curling Federation) in 1986.

In 1990, Australia first competed internationally in Oslo, Norway. The Australian Curling Federation (ACF) was formed in 1993 to be the national governing body for the sport in Australia. James Oastler was the inaugural president of the Federation which had three state members: New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria.

The initial challenge for the ACF was to host the third Pacific Curling Championships in 1993 for which reconditioned stones were obtained on lease from the World Curling Federation. Competitors from New Zealand, Japan and Australia included men's and women's teams from all three countries. Since that time the South Australian member association has closed and two new member associations joined; the Queensland Curling Association was formed in 2005 and Curling WA was formed in 2014.

Australian Curling became the debutante sport at the 2022 Beijing Olympic Winter Games with Mixed Doubles duo Tahli Gill and Dean Hewitt making history for our nation. Notably both are second generation Curlers who played on Junior teams in their development years.

Today the ACF continues with its initial goal of supporting the state members and liaising with international bodies in an effort to propel the sport towards gaining national and international recognition.

ABOUT US

VISION

To safeguard and enhance Curling's future in Australia

We will:

Ignite interest

Empower growth

Champion the Spirit of Curling

Support individuals to maximise their potential

MISSION

The Australian Curling Federation is the governing body that leads, develops and promotes the sport of Curling in Australia. We aid and support the individual State Associations and their grassroots endeavours to advance Curling whilst providing a pathway for curlers to compete at National and International events, including the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

VALUES

Act with **INTEGRITY**

Strive for **EXCELLENCE**

Demonstrate **LEADERSHIP**

Be **INCLUSIVE**

Show **RESPECT**

Inspire **PASSION**



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Good Governance

1. Maintain National Sporting Organisation recognition by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC)
2. Maintain compliance within Sport Integrity including Sport Integrity Australia's (SIA) National Integrity Framework (NIF) and the National Sports Tribunal (NST)
3. Review and strengthen Board Terms of Reference



Operational Sustainability

1. Develop and implement a business plan to build capacity and capability with the aim of attracting investment (in-kind or financial)
2. Build a business continuity strategy including a succession plan that identifies key skills and responsibilities at the operational level



Performance Pathways

1. Develop an athlete categorisation framework with clear indicators and performance trajectory to encourage curlers to be the best they can be and increase the depth and performance of national representatives
2. Develop and promote a Coaching and Officiating framework to increase numbers and enable national accreditation
3. Determine feasibility of hiring National Head Coach to develop and implement athlete, coaching and officiating frameworks



Sport Engagement

1. Conduct branding review of the ACF and its alignment with State Associations
2. Raise awareness of Curling nationally through the development and implementation of a marketing and communications campaign to cover all stakeholders
3. Support States and Territories to secure access to facilities and increase participation across Australia

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As another year finishes, we have many successes to celebrate from 2023. The Sport of Curling is actively taking place in three states: Queensland, Victoria, and Western Australia in ice skating rinks. We have Association Members in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia. The Australian Curling Federation (ACF) executive membership changed slightly this year. Laurie Weeden served as President and Ian Gagnon as Acting Vice-President (resigning 30 September 2023). Appointed State Representatives were Carlee Millikin (NSW), Elliott Douglas (WA), Gerald Chick (Vic), and Lyn Gill (Qld) with Dave Thomas (Qld) stepping off at the AGM in May. Edwin Wan served in the role of treasurer and Carolyn Swan was the secretary with Murray Turner as Assistant Secretary, the latter role being a new position on the executive committee. The ACF held an SGM in December to fill the vacant Vice-President position. Brad Scott was unopposed after nominating from the floor of the meeting.

The first order of business for the executive committee in 2023 was to develop a 3-year strategic plan. Many hours were dedicated towards developing the strategic plan with the assistance of experienced chair/facilitator Gillian French. We are extremely grateful for the enormous amount of time Gillian spent preparing for the meetings to maximise productivity and discussion. The final result was officially announced in August with our new vision *“To safeguard and enhance Curling’s future in Australia”*. Moving forward, the executive will focus on objectives falling under four pillars: Good Governance, Operational Sustainability, Performance Pathways and Sport Engagement.

At the beginning of March, with the support of Paralympics Australia, Perth-based Claire Turak became our first classifier for Wheelchair Curling in Australia after completing the World Curling Federation (WCF) 2023 Wheelchair Classifier course in Richmond, British Columbia. This is fantastic for our Wheelchair curlers and the ACF will be focusing on developing this space further.

The ACF sent two representatives to attend the AOC AGM in Sydney at the beginning of May and it was a chance to connect with other winter sports and participate in CEO roundtable discussions the day prior. Ian Chesterman is the AOC President with Matt Carroll as CEO.

Throughout the year a number of surveys were conducted with members and stakeholders to obtain feedback for the development of the new 3-year strategic plan, around Nationals events, and during the process of commissioning an Indigenous artist to create a design for the re-branding of the ACF.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To cap off the year, the ACF announced the appointment of Perry Marshall as our new Head Coach in November. This initiative was tied to our 3-year strategic plan and a crucial undertaking as we enter the qualification period for Milano Cortina 2026. It is important to lay the right foundation and Perry's understanding of high-performance environments and program development will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Australian Curling. This is a shared partnership-funded initiative. We are grateful for the stakeholder support of the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia, Victorian Institute of Sport, Queensland Academy of Sport and the Australian Olympic Committee.

Competitions and International Representatives

In January for the first time ever, Australia sent a representative University Women's team to the FISU World University Games in Lake Placid, New York. This University Women's team placed 10th in a field of established Curling nations in the Oceania spot with the event taking place every 2 years. The University Women's team and the ACF gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship funding received from the McKeage Cole Foundation in support of U25 development.

There were two Senior teams competing in the World Senior Curling Championships in April placing 14th (Men) and 13th (Women). At the same time, the Mixed Doubles team placed 8th at the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships (WMDCC) with both events being held concurrently at the 2018 Olympic venue in Gangneung, Korea. The top 8 finish of the Mixed Doubles team has secured Australia a place at the 2024 WMDCC.

Two Australian National events were held at the Maniototo International rink in Naseby, New Zealand which is a dedicated Curling facility. Nationals in June (6-11) featured the disciplines of Men (8 teams), Women (5 teams), Mixed Fours (8 Teams) and 2 uncontested teams nominated in the Junior Men and Junior Women. Both the Junior teams chose to enter into the respective open disciplines as a way of obtaining competitive experience. Overall winners were Team Merchant (Men), Team Westhagen (Women) and Team Panoussi (Mixed Fours). These teams all went on to represent Australia in World Curling Federation endorsed events. The second Nationals event took place in September (18-22) with two disciplines: Mixed Doubles (2 teams) and Senior Men (2 teams). Team Gill/Hewitt placed first in Mixed Doubles and Team Imlah placed first in Senior Men's.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Both National events had our Chief Umpire Sandy Gagnon and Deputy Umpire Rob Gagnon who provided a high level of assurance that rules and technical guidelines are consistent across all games as well as preparing teams for what to expect beyond National competitions. Sincere thanks are extended to all the Umpires, Nationals Committee members and the volunteers whose contributions resulted in two successful Nationals events.

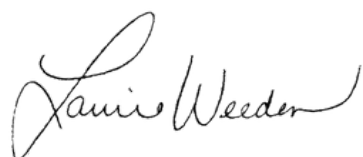
In October Australia's Mixed Fours team placed 5th of 34 teams in Aberdeen, Scotland at the World Mixed Curling Championships which is the highest ranking ever achieved at this event for an Australian Team. Following on from this event in Kelowna, Canada, the Men's and Women's teams competed in the A division of the Pan Continental Curling Championships with the Men placing 6th and securing a spot in the A-division in 2024 and the women placing 8th which means relegation to the B-division for 2024. Each of these teams fund their travel expenses to train and compete and we acknowledge their efforts as athletes and ambassadors for our country.

To finish off 2023, a new group of Juniors represented Australia in December at the World Junior B Curling Championships held in Lohja, Finland with the Women competing first in the event program ranking 23rd overall and then the Men competing afterwards finishing 18th.

The Australian Curling Federation recognises the high-performance funding from the Australian Olympic Committee and the World Curling Federation DAP (Development Application Programme) funding that assisted each State with various initiatives last season.

On behalf of the entire Curling community in Australia, I extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to our State Executives and volunteers. These dedicated volunteers ensure the smooth operation and continuous growth of Curling in each of the States. Your enthusiasm and passion for curling make the difference.

Finally, as we reflect on the achievements and milestones of 2023, I extend my sincerest appreciation to the Executive Committee. Your work and ongoing commitment to our 3-year strategic plan has further elevated the profile of Curling in Australia. Thank you for your support and work on the strategic objectives.



Laurie Weeden
President



WORLD CURLING

World Curling Federation Report

After a 2-year break due to covid, the World Curling Federation (WCF) began accepting applications again for the Sports Media Trainee Programme. Two new working groups were created in February, the Sustainability Committee, and the DEI Committee while 3 applicants were accepted to the Competition and Rules Commission. Also in February, the WCF shared the news of Australia's first dedicated curling ice facility being announced and in development.

A series of virtual fitness workshops were announced in March 2023 through the World Curling Academy platform to complement the suite of courses already available. Towards the end of May, the WCF partnered with WePlay for a brand identity refresh. In July it was announced that two new staff members were hired and the World Curling Team Ranking System working group developed a proposed set of changes to for the period of 2023–2026.

The Annual General Assembly on 15 September 2023 in Seoul, South Korea with Carlee Millikin and John Anderson attending on behalf of the Australian Curling Federation, as the female and male representatives respectively. Three new Member Associations were announced at the General Assembly, Pakistan, Philippines, and Puerto Rico, increasing the total number of members to 73.

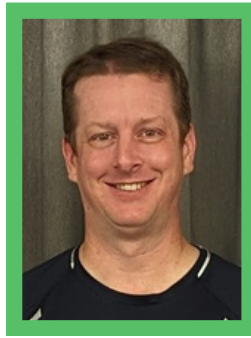
In November, just over a year since stepping down as President from the World Curling Federation due to reaching the end of allowable time in the position, former President Kate Caithness CBE was inducted into the World Curling Federation Hall of Fame.



EXECUTIVE BOARD



**President
Laurie Weeden**



**Vice-President
Ian Gagnon**
(Feb-Sept 2023)



**Vice-President
Brad Scott**
(from Dec 2023)



**Secretary
Carolyn Swan**



**Assistant Secretary
Murray Turner**



**Treasurer
Edwin Wan**

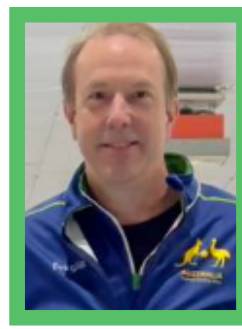
Association Member Representatives:



**NSW
Carlee Millikin**



**QLD
Lyn Gill**



**VIC
Gerald Chick**



**WA
Elliott Douglas**



**National Head Coach
Perry Marshall**



**National Integrity Manager
Jen Krawczyk**

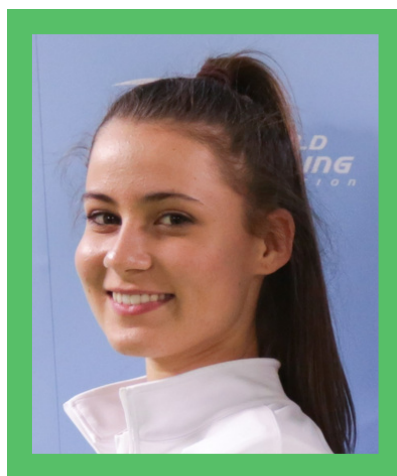


**Classifier
Claire Tucak**

ATHLETE COMMISSION



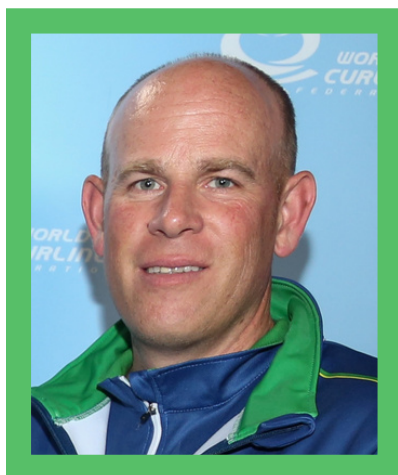
Matt Panoussi
Skip



Kirby Gill
Vice Skip



**Michelle
Fredericks-
Armstrong**



**Sean
Hall**



**Sandy
Gagnon**

Members of the Athlete Commission were appointed on 19 November 2019 by the ACF Executive according to the [Athlete Commission - Terms of Reference](#).

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials have been distributed to all members. As with previous years, this financial year follows the calendar year running from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023. All bank activities are shown in the Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet of the Financial Report.

On 31 December 2023 we had no outstanding expenses.

Outstanding income consists of membership dues, insurance payments from state associations and reimbursement from representative teams for the advance purchase of heat transfer labels for OWIA supplied apparel.

Income over the course of 2023 consisted of membership dues, insurance payments from the state associations, entry fees for Nationals competitions, World Curling Federation's (WCF) Development and Assistance Program (DAP) funds, reimbursements of travel expenses for the Junior teams, Australian Olympic Committee's (AOC) High Performance & Solidarity funding, stakeholder funding for National Head Coach operating expenses and bank interest.

Expenses related to WCF DAP funds distributed to the state associations, AOC funding disbursements, expenses associated with operating National Championships, costs associated with national teams competing at international tournaments, National Head Coach operating expenses, WCF annual membership dues, purchasing of assets for Australian Curling Federation (ACF) use, ACF's annual registration with Consumer Affairs Victoria, annual insurance renewal fees, marketing expenses, bank fees and general admin expenses.

The Balance Sheet line item "Office Equipment" can be broken down into fixed assets of four sets of rocks valued at \$10,000¹, Ice Boss ice scraper² valued at \$13,349, eight FloorCurl³ sets valued at \$7,135 with \$14,765.62 listed under Liabilities as funding received in advance for 2024 expenses. Additional unlisted small assets purchased in 2023 include a laser measuring device \$700 and tablet \$250.

From July 2023 the ACF began using the Xero accounting platform with the assistance of Paul Meissner from 5ways Group Chartered Accountants to transition over. The ease of creating reports and bank reconciliation has greatly assisted the organisation in maintaining financial records and the ACF is grateful for this support from 5ways Group.

While the Profit & Loss Statement lists a loss of \$4,272.92, the majority of this is attributed to the outstanding membership and insurance payments received in the 2024 financial year and outstanding 2022 expenses from Nationals paid out in 2023. Aside from the addition of the National Head Coach operating expenses, it was a typical financial year for the ACF.

¹ACF property 3 sets in NSW; 1 set likely in VIC (purchased as used stones in the 1990's)

²ACF property currently housed in WA (acquired in 2017)

³ACF property currently housed: 2 in QLD (2) and 2 in WA (\$3,817.87 acquired in 2019); and 4 currently housed in VIC (\$3,317.63 acquired in 2022)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Australian Curling Federation Inc

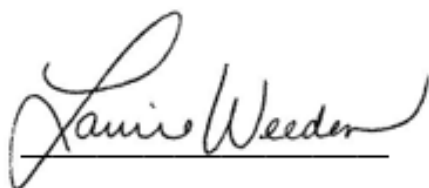
Officers' declaration

31 December 2023

In the Officer's opinion:

- For the year ended 31 December 2023 the company was not required to prepare financial statements under the Corporations Act 2001;
- the attached Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet reports comply with relevant Australian Accounting Standards and give a true and fair view the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

On behalf of the Officers



Signed

Name: Laurie Weeden

Date: 12 March 2024

INCOME STATEMENT

Profit and Loss

Australian Curling Federation
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
Trading Income		
Australian Sports Foundation Donations	-	33,165.44
Other Revenue	175.00	-
AOC Funding	27,750.00	18,573.06
Insurance Dues	3,267.38	348.42
Interest Income	0.01	0.10
Nationals Income	19,400.00	19,500.00
State Membership Dues	1,000.00	1,200.00
WCF Funding	15,084.66	17,804.40
Coach Operating Expense Funding	5,234.38	-
Total Trading Income	71,911.43	90,591.42
Gross Profit	71,911.43	90,591.42
Operating Expenses		
Bank Fees	-	227.96
Coaching Expenses	5,234.38	-
Consulting & Accounting	48.00	-
Annual Dues	861.87	595.15
Domain Renewal	354.25	-
General Expenses	75.44	1,326.40
Insurance	3,226.88	2,593.82
Legal expenses	-	60.10
Marketing Expenses	4,265.00	-
Web Hosting	60.00	-
AOC Funding Expenses	25,000.00	30,035.06
Nationals Expenses	20,580.64	13,205.89
Training Camp Expenses	1,200.00	25,597.20
WCF Funding Expenses	15,102.26	11,359.81
Other Expense	175.00	-
Total Operating Expenses	76,183.72	85,001.39
Net Profit	(4,272.29)	5,590.03

BALANCE SHEET

Balance Sheet

Australian Curling Federation
As at 31 December 2023

	31 DEC 2023	31 DEC 2022
Assets		
Bank		
Cash Reserve	1,155.44	1,155.43
Solutions One	21,697.21	11,203.89
Total Bank	22,852.65	12,359.32
Fixed Assets		
Office Equipment	30,484.70	30,484.70
Total Fixed Assets	30,484.70	30,484.70
Total Assets	53,337.35	42,844.02
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Funding Received in Advance	14,765.62	-
Total Current Liabilities	14,765.62	-
Total Liabilities	14,765.62	-
Net Assets	38,571.73	42,844.02
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	(4,272.29)	5,590.03
Retained Earnings	42,844.02	37,253.99
Total Equity	38,571.73	42,844.02

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS



CURLING NSW

The New South Wales Curling Association had members representing overseas in the following disciplines in 2023: Women's and Senior Men's. Weekly league Curling has been put on hold after an ice rink closure. New facilities are being sought for future Curling opportunities in NSW.



The Queensland Curling Association operates out of Boondall Ice World in northern Brisbane with different leagues running April to November and Come and Try events typically at the beginning of the season.



The Victorian Curling Association operates out of O'Brien Icehouse in Docklands, Melbourne on Monday nights offering Beginner Leagues, Come and Try events and Regular Leagues during the season beginning in February to November.



CURLING WA

Curling WA operates out of the Cockburn Ice Arena in Bibra Lake, Perth offering regular league Curling, Learn to Curl/Come and Try opportunities and Corporate event throughout their season beginning in February to November.

NATIONALS

Teams winning the Men's, Women's, Mixed (Fours), Mixed Doubles and Senior Men's competitions at Nationals pictured below. The Men's, Women's and Mixed (Fours) were held 6 - 11 June with Mixed Doubles and Senior Men's being held 18 -20 September. Both Nationals events were held at Maniototo International in Naseby, New Zealand.



Men's (L-R): Tanner Davis, Justin Grundy, **Jay Merchant**, Dean Hewitt, Thomas Bence



Women's (L-R): Carlee Millikin, Sara Westman, Kristen Tsourlenes, **Jennifer Westhagen**



Mixed (L-R): **Matt Panoussi**, Gerald Chick, Jennifer Westhagen, Beata Bowes



Men's (L-R): Hamish Lorrain-Smith, James Boyd, Geoff Davis, **Dave Imlah**



Mixed Doubles (L-R): Dean Hewitt and Tahli Gill

REPRESENTATION

Teams representing Australia in 2023 World Curling Federation events



2023 World University Games
12-22 January - Lake Placid, USA



2023 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships
22-29 April - Gangneung, South Korea



2023 World Mixed Curling Championships
14-21 October - Aberdeen, Scotland

REPRESENTATION

Teams representing Australia in 2023 World Curling Federation events



2023 World Senior Curling Championships
22-29 April - Gangneung, South Korea



2023 Pan Continental Curling Championships
29 October-4 November - Kelowna, Canada



2023 World Junior "B" Curling Championships
8-19 December - Lohja, Finland

2023 NEWS



Australian Umpire Sandy Gagnon at the 2023 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships in South Korea



CLAIRE TUCAK

Our Vision
To safeguard and enhance Curling's future in Australia

Our Values

- Act with **INTEGRITY** Strive for **EXCELLENCE**
- Demonstrate **LEADERSHIP** Be **INCLUSIVE**
- Show **RESPECT** Inspire **PASSION**

Our Priorities

- Good Governance
- Operational Sustainability
- Performance Pathways
- Sport Engagement

Strategic Plan 2023-2026



SPORT INTEGRITY

Following adoption of the National Integrity Framework (NIF) in partnership with Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) in 2022, the Australian Curling Federation (ACF) has continued to work with SIA to embed the suite of policies across the sport of Curling.

In support of this work, the ACF received a grant to continue funding their dedicated National Integrity Manager (NIM) through to June 2024.

In July 2023, SIA confirmed an update to the NIF policies which means complaints around child safeguarding and discrimination against a Protected Characteristic can be reported to and investigated independently by SIA. All other integrity complaints can be reported to the ACF.

The National Integrity Framework Working Group (NIFIWG) which includes representatives from each state has played a key role in supporting the implementation of the NIF and child safe practices at state level throughout 2023.

As they work towards the National Child Safe Principles, the ACF Executive Committee have led by example with all members completing their Safeguarding e-learning and child safe interviews.

Report integrity issues in our sport



Zero tolerance to child abuse and bullying



National Integrity Framework Online Education



Education plays a key role in the ACF's integrity strategy with additional integrity e-learning rolled out to all competitors at this year's Nationals and international curlers being invited to a bespoke anti-doping webinar delivered by SIA on behalf of the Olympic Winter Institute (OWIA).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



With thanks to the World Curling Federation Development Assistance Programme that supports many development projects throughout Australia each year.



Paralympics Australia supported the costs for Australia's first Wheelchair classifier to attend a World Curling Federation-run Classification course in British Columbia, Canada. We gratefully acknowledge this funding support.

Our Partners



Queensland Academy of Sport



Photos:

Page 8 (top row L-R): Photo #1 © WCF / Richard Gray: 2016 WMDCC (third Row from top L-R): Photo #1 © Stephen Fisher: 2023 PACC Photo #2 © Tom Rowland: 2018 PACC

Page 9 (Top Row L-R): Photo #1 © Jeffrey Au: 2018 WMxCC, Photo#2 © Tom Rowland: 2018 PACC; (Bottom Row L-R): Photo #1 © WCF: 2017 PACC, Photo #2 © Tom Rowland: 2019 WSCC, Photo #3 © WCF: 2019 PACC

Design and Content by Laurie Weeden