

# BOCCE AUSTRALIA



The premier bocce sport eNewsletter in Australia  
Editor Frank Funari and Photographs Raymond Cher

APRIL 2019

## Top stories in this newsletter



### Easter has arrived

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Port Lincoln -  
Australian Bocce  
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Special O's –Bocce  
wins gold in Abu  
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**What a year ! 2019 is well underway and we have had many Bocce memorable moments in such a short time.**

*Message from Bocce Australia President—Frank Funari*

**I**t has been a fast pace few months of bocce already this year and Easter is a welcome break to allow us all to take a breath and be with family and friends so that we recharge for the busy months ahead.

So far this year Bocce Australia has forged ahead with many initiatives, laying the foundation for the future longevity of the sport. We launched the new Logo, we expanded our digital footprint; Launched the first of the many new look competitions —the State of Origin and Junior Tri-State tournaments both were great successes with the players; Coaching and Referee courses refreshed; started the search for more Mixed Relay players with the start of the challenge; Competed in the World Raffa Championships and made new friends at Port Lincoln with the Croatian Sporting Club hosting the Australian Raffa Open.

All this in just under 3 months has been due to the hard work of the BA Board and the many passionate group of volunteers dedicated to making Bocce great! It is this dedicated, keen and energetic group of bocce women, men, boys & girls that work in the background that make the sport. Keep up the good work and together lets keep on **Striving For Greatness!**





Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission



## Club Marconi no 'Catch and Release' at Port Lincoln as they clean up prizes at the Australian Bocce Raffa Open Championship!

Port Lincoln world famous as the fishing capital of Australia was transformed into the capital of Bocce this past weekend (30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019) as the Australian Bocce Raffa Championships were hosted at the Croatian Sporting Club.

The event attracted top International Bocce Raffa players from Sydney and Morwell as well local South Australian players from Adelaide and Port Lincoln. Diane Penney recently returned from the World Titles in Argentina with new comer to the sport, doubles partner Mary Massena were the stand out in the women's division beating Adelaide team of Mirella Mancini & Franca Ross. It was Franca's first time and although missing out in the final she had a ball and enjoyed playing alongside experienced veteran of the game, Mirella. As to the five Port Lincoln ladies teams they all had their chances and although new to this version of bocce, they were no easy beats. Two of the Port Lincoln ladies doubles team qualified to the Semi-finals - Lesley Kolega & Carol Thompson and Ellen Everden & Cheryl King finished equal 3<sup>rd</sup> in a top line women's division.

In the Men's Division, Club Marconi swallowed up all opposition as white bait as they progressed through the field to the final of the Men's Division. They smashed thorough the round robin section of the tournament, winning all games especially N&V Chiandotto, and were the stand outs with their precision bowling and strategic game play. The Brunswick East duo of Charles Di Petta and Gino Montuoro were on fire for most of the tournament but failed to control the game in the semi-final against the inform Club Marconi team. In the other Men's pool of the tournament, Rudy Mancini and Angelo Addabbo were competitive but could not overcome the duo of Rozzo & Maraffa also from Club Marconi. It was an all Club Marconi final between the Joe's (Joe Rozzo & Joe Maraffa) and the duo of Nella & Valerio Chiandotto. It was a close final with the Joe's finally getting the upper hand and winning through in the final 2 ends.

It was a first time for the five teams from Port Lincoln competing in a National Bocce Championships and all players were competitive and all enjoyed the experience. Shane Hopp and Simon Treagus won the consolation prize in the rapid fire elimination knock-out consolation competition. Both narrowly missed out in qualifying for the semi's but went home with a win. Like wise veteran bocce champion Maria Ferraro and her doubles partner Onorina Bersan were outstanding and thoroughly enjoyed beating the silver medallist from India Franco Fava & Tony Biancacci. *ff*





## Australia set to compete at the first Asia Oceania Bocce Championships, in Melbourne

Athletes from countries in Asia and Oceania are set to descend into Melbourne, **Casa D'Abruzzo Club Boccedrome** from 3<sup>rd</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> May, to compete in the inaugural 2019 Asia Oceania Men's & Women's Bocce Championships.



L-R: Tony Biancacci, Sonia Fava, Fernando Cardinale & Frank Funari

The number of athletes allowed to compete in the seven disciplines of the sport of bocce have been decided and teams have been preparing for this opportunity for some past months. The traditional events of Singles, Doubles, BowlThrow along with the spectacular throwing events of Precision Throw, Progressive throw and Rapid Throw will be joined with the all new exciting Mixed Rapid Relay event. The powerhouse teams of China and Japan are planning to arrive early so that they climatise to the local playing conditions of the bocce courts.

It is expected that teams from Hong Kong, India, Nepal and Chinese Taipei will be in force to compete. The top two placegetters in each of the men's & women's divisions per discipline will qualify and earn the spot to go to the World Bocce Sport Championships to be hosted in Lyon France in November 2019.

Frank Funari, President of Bocce Australia stated that ***"We are very pleased with the opportunity to be hosting this event for the first time here in Australia, it will give our local players the opportunity to see some of the best of Bocce played over the 3 days"***. Tony Biancacci President of the Asia Oceania Sport Boules Confederation secured the event for Australia at the Federation de Boules International congress in 2018. ***"He was very much honoured that the inaugural Championship was to be hosted in his home city of Melbourne. Oceania and Asia are very close economically and politically and now we are coming closer together in sport with Bocce."*** Tony told the delegates. ff 



# The Special Olympics World Summer Games

were held in Abu Dhabi, UAE from 8-21 March 2019, with 7,000 athletes with an intellectual disability from 170 nations competing across 24 sports in front of half a million spectators.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
WORLD GAMES  
ABU DHABI 2019

الأولمبياد الخاص  
العالمية  
أبوظبي 2019

Australia was represented by 105 athletes who competed across 11 sports: Athletics, basketball, **bocce**, bowling, equestrian, football, golf, gymnastics, sailing, swimming and tennis. They were supported by 35 volunteer officials.



L-R: Frank Funari, Vicki Robbins and Michael Migliaccio

In Melbourne at the Special O's Summer Games Frank Funari caught up Vicki Robbins and Michael Migliaccio. Vicki had just returned from the World Games having won 1 Gold, and 2 bronze medals in bocce. Bocce Australia congratulate all the athletes for a fabulous performance Abu Dhabi, UAE .



The Special O's Summer Games were a great success. The sun was shining as over 220 athletes hit the courts, track and pool.

The day started with an awesome opening ceremony with thanks to the , Chief Commissioner of Graham Ashton and the member for Menzies Kevin Andrews. The ceremony was followed by action aplenty at the Veneto Club Bulleen, Carey Sports Complex and Hagenauer Reserve in Box Hill. Heaps of personal bests, more medals and so much sportsmanship!

Good to see all the athletes and families supporting the 2019 Games and thanks to the Bocce Victoria & Bocce Australia's Rick Gatto and Michael Migliaccio.



# Australian Senior Women & Men Bocce Championships Adelaide — June 2019



Adelaide will be host to the Australian premier Bocce Volo championships in June 2019. Mirella Mancini, President of Bocce SA and her team of volunteers have secured both the Furlan & Sicilia clubs to be the host venues for the Championship.

Both venues are close to each other and are a perfect fit for the Championships.

This year again the event will open on the Thursday with the National Club Championship. Lazio Marche Club will be back to defend their title as the premier Bocce Club in Australia. Who will be their contenders to the Title? Marconi, Redlands ? (ff)

Full details available from your local State Bocce Federation or Regional Bocce Club delegates.

## Find your Greatness!



Photographs taken & supplied by Raymond Cher



# BOCCE HOT NEWS!

## Australia Juniors/U23 invited to Monaco 2019



This year, the Denis Ravera Challenge will take place on the 21st and 22nd of September and this year will include only two categories: the Under 18 and the Under 23's.

The following week World Junior/U23 Bocce Championships will be held in Alassio, Italy so it is the perfect way to have teams as far away as South America, Asia and Oceania come along and benefit from the additional bocce competition.

The Denis Ravera's International Challenge was created in 2008 to honor the memory of the President of the Club Bouliste du Rocher, who died in 2007.

Denis Ravera was a Monegasque Politician, in particular Government Counsellor for Social Affairs, and did a lot for the Bocce sport in the Principality of Monaco.

He is thus responsible for the implementation of Bocce sport initiation in schools in the Principality, he also used his influence to create the Bouliste Formation Centre.



**Australian Junior/U23 Open to be held in Melbourne on weekend of 29th & 30th June 2019.**

**Game 2 State of Origin date to be confirmed! Lack of sponsorship has meant that the date has had to be moved. BA management are having discussions with a couple of potential sponsors and if it materialises, Game 2 could be Saturday 29th June.**

*Watch this space as discussions evolve!*

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