

BOCCE AUSTRALIA



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

MARCH 2019

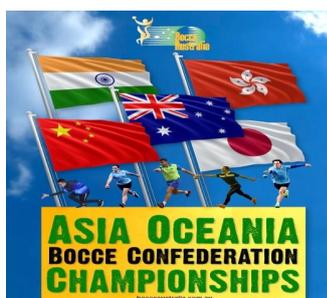
Top stories in this newsletter



Dynamic duo do Australia proud in Argentina [Read More...](#)



Port Lincoln - Australian Bocce Raffa Open Championship 2019 [Read more...](#)



Asia Oceania Women & Men Bocce 2019 Championships [Read more...](#)



Australia Senior Men's & Women's Championships June 2019 ! [Read more...](#)

Dynamic duo do Australia proud in Argentina !

by Kate Withers @katejwithers (Latrobe Valley EXPRESS)

Morwell mother-son duo Diane and Nick Penney may not have returned from the World Raffa Championships in Argentina with any silverware, but they did Australia proud.

The doubles pair made it through to the top 16 against some of the best countries the world and not only matched it with them but won.



Nick Penney, Frank Fava and Diane Penney journeyed to Argentina for the World Raffa Championships. photograph kate withers

Despite contracting a nasty bug, they handed defeat to power nations Hungary, Switzerland and France and some of those teams included fully-fledged professionals.

"Beating Switzerland was pretty big. They're high up," Nick said.

"I don't think our skills were any worse than a lot of them, it was just decision-making and training.

"So it was good to beat them and France and Hungary ... and against France it was just good to win the way we won."

Time had run out against France and Nick and Diane found themselves three down before mounting a remarkable comeback which South American commentators described in a live stream as "impossible".

"We were down 7-10 and had two balls ... we had one point, then got two and shot another ball and got four on the last end," Nick said.

"It was just ... how did that happen? But I think we played pretty well together. The fact we all got along off the court [transfers] onto the court," Diane said.

"You haven't got any niggles off the court you don't take anything like that onto the court." Coach Frank Fava, who travelled with the Penneys to Argentina, said they "were up there" with the best throughout the week-long tournament

"They beat three European teams ... which is fantastic," Fava said.

"They played really well, because when they were losing a few times they got the jack. We did all the right things, played a decent game."

Nick also competed in the precision throwing and finished fifth in a tough pool which included favourites Uruguay and Austria.

Out of 23 countries in the doubles, Australia finished middle of the field in 12th.

"I think we made a few people sit up and take notice of Australia," Diane said.

"Normally you go there and it's like 'they're playing Australia, we'll chalk it up as a win', but we got through to the top 16 of the doubles."

Article & team photo by Kate Withers @katejwithers (Latrobe Valley EXPRESS)



Nick Penney was a stand-out at the closing ceremony with his True Blue Aussie Suit



Well done Nick— setting the trend in 'Bocce Fashion on the courts'!



The big fish of bocce will be in Port Lincoln 30th & 31st March for the 2019

Australian Bocce Raffa Open Championship!

Port Lincoln world famous as the fishing capital of Australia will be transformed into the capital of Bocce this weekend as the Australian Bocce Raffa Championships are to be hosted at the Croatian Sporting Club.

The event will be streamed live via Bocce Australia Facebook to viewers Australia and Worldwide. It is hoped that all eyes will be on Port Lincoln this weekend as this event captures the imagination of the world bocce community by having many thousands watching, as did the Bocce Australia live stream of the World Bocce final in Argentina, which exceeded 65,000 viewers.

Top International Bocce Raffa players from Sydney and Morwell will be competing against local South Australian players from Adelaide and Port Lincoln. Diane Penney recently returned from the World Titles in Argentina will be one of the topline players in the Women's competition. Diane will be teaming up with newcomer to Bocce Raffa, Mary Massena. We look forward to Diane on the court and off the court as she will be sharing her bocce experience at the Welcome dinner on Saturday evening.

In the Men's division Franco Fava and Tony Biancacci, Silver medallist from the Asia Oceania Raffa Championships will be competing along with International players Joe Rozzo and Joe Maraffa from Marconi Club, Sydney. The Joe's competed in the St Louis, USA Friendly in 2018 and set the pathway for a future regular bocce challenge, between Australia & USA.(ff)



Bocce Australia Changing the Game of Bocce in Port Lincoln:

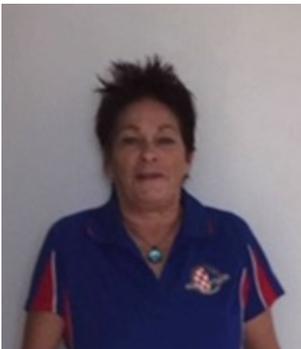
Increasing Female Participation in Sport was launched some years ago by Sport Australia (formerly known as Australian Sports Commission) and Bocce is a perfect sport for all women of all ages. Bocce Australia has been on drive to increase women in the sport and with the Bocce Raffa Open Championship in Port Lincoln, South Australia, this weekend we have seen an increase in women taking up the game of Bocce at the club.

Participation in sport at any level from grassroots to high performance contributes to healthy and active living. Women and girls who participate in sport can realise significant physical, psychological and social benefits.

The women's sport landscape has changed significantly in recent years. Women in Australian sport are shining brighter than ever with unprecedented media coverage and broadcasting deals boosting their profile and giving rise to female sporting heroes.



Our women are winning the hearts and minds of a new fan base and inspiring young girls and women of all ages across the country. Now is the time to shape the women's sport agenda to realise the health, commercial and social benefits of increasing female engagement as participants, fans, role models and decision makers.



Diane Jeffery is one of the many ladies from Port Lincoln that have taken up the sport of Bocce. Diane said “ ***Bocce is something I have never played or heard of before. I have now been playing Bocce for 5 months and I love it***”.

The club has a strong following of ladies that play a regular competition of bocce and have now embraced the Bocce Raffa version which is more technical in the rule and is expanding in the Asia Oceania region. Diane said “***I am very excited to have the opportunity to represent the Bocce Raffa competition hosted by the Port Lincoln Croatian Sporting Club this weekend***”.

Bocce Australia is proud to be one of the sports that women of all ages can easily participate while providing the platform for a healthy, fun and social environment.

“Not knowing anything about Raffa/Bocce what so ever I can say I’m so happy to have found the sport here in Port Lincoln as I absolutely love the game....”.

It will be a first time for the five teams from Port Lincoln competing in a National Bocce Championships and all players are looking forward to the challenge.

Cheryl King one of the regular bocce players at the Croatian Sporting Club said to BA “***...this is my second year of playing Bocce, having been asked several times beforehand to have a go, by my sisters. Once I started I really enjoyed playing***”.

Also Carol Thompson in her second year of playing Bocce is keen for the weekend event. Carol said to BA “***.....Initially went to a come & try day & really enjoyed it & found all the other players very welcoming & friendly. Since learning the Raffa Bocce I have found it more challenging & looking forward to the weekend.....***”.

All the players have been practicing on regular basis since it was announced that Port Lincoln was to host this national bocce event. The draw for the Australian Bocce-Raffa Open was offi-

cially announced in readiness for the weekend's Bocce extravaganza to be hosted in Port Lincoln at the Croatian Sporting Club. 18 teams will descend onto the Club's bocce courts with their eyes set on the winning the top prize.

One happy bocce player will be Gerri Evenden who was one of the master minds behind encouraging Bocce Australia to come to Port Lincoln. Gerri, having competed in the 2017 Australian Masters Games bocce tournament held in Devonport, loved the fun time she had playing the game, that she set about having Bocce Australia visit the club and promote the Bocce Raffa game. Since then the club have embraced the game and have 5 teams competing in this weekend's championship. **Gerri will be on the court with doubles team partner Di Jeffrey - we wish both Gerri & Di lots of success in the tournament and may the bocce bowls run true for both the ladies .**



Ellen Challengier

Another keen bocce player is Ellen Challengier has been playing bocce four seasons.

Ellen told BA **"...I enjoyed my first "Come and Try" experience so much that I decided to take up the sport. Even though I'm new to the Bocce Raffa rules. I'm enjoying this form of the game and am looking forward to the experience of competing in the Championship...."**



L-R: Lesley Kolega, Frank Funari, Slavko Kolega & Franco Fava

At the club the team lead by Slav & Lesley Kolega have been working hard since last November on getting the club ready for the big event.

Lesley with her work commitments at "Anytime Fitness", and family has been a driving force in getting the event ready. Lesley has been in constant contact with Bocce Australia as her team of volunteers make arrangements for the visiting players from as far as Sydney, NSW and Morwell, Victoria.

Slav, too has been busy between his fishing commitments he has been preparing the bocce courts for the championships. **"The courts are in**

pristine condition and will be super smooth for the bowling" Slav said. With his usual smile, Slav said to BA that: **"Franco Fava will be proud in the condition of the courts"**. I'm sure Franco Fava will inspect every centimeter of the courts to ensure all is ready!

Lesley has been co-ordinating the logistics and the hospitality while practicing her bocce bowling style. Lesley will be competing in her very first Australian Bocce Championships as are all the 5 teams from Port Lincoln. **"I'm excited on having this major Bocce event here at the club and even though I'm a little nervous competing against some of the**



best bocce raffa players in Australia, I love a challenge and am looking forward to the big day" said Lesley. Local teams from Adelaide & Port Lincoln have been practicing feverishly and are keen to keep the prizes in South Australia. While in Port Lincoln all the players have been practicing on regular basis since it was announced that Port Lincoln was to host this national bocce event. The players are excited and determined to keep the prizes in Port Lincoln. **Bring it on!**



Melbourne to Host First Ever Bocce Men's & Women's Asia Oceania Championships



For the first time, the 2019 Bocce Men's & Women's Asia Oceania Championships will bring together with the inclusion of the Mixed Rapid Relay, 7 disciplines of the sport in one event format with over 40 international elite players from 7 countries expected to contest each of the three-day event (3,4 & 5 May 2019).

The first two place getters in each of the 7 disciplines will automatically get to go to Lyon, France in November 2019, to compete in the World Titles. This is the first year that this qualification process has been introduced by the World body, FIB.

The best Bocce athletes and a stellar line-up of National Champions and Record holders will compete alongside each other in an action packed, bocce smash and bash, showcasing the exciting disciplines of the Bowl Throw event, the Precision bowling and the athletic Progressive Throw discipline, with the Mixed Rapid Relay adding an extra spectator thrill to the event.

"It is going to be one of the biggest bocce competitions that Australia has had since the first World Championships host in Melbourne, 1979, and the subsequent World events held in the eighties. We have been trying to get this coordinated for a while and now it is happening, we all within the sport are very excited about it all," Bronze World medallist, **Daniel Samsa** said.

Likewise Australian Women's Champion and 5th in the world women's doubles, Vanessa Allegretto said ***"It will be a great spectacle to watch as it is streamed live. Loud music, great action all down by the side of the feature"***.



Frank Funari, President Bocce Australia told BA: ***"For us to be able to showcase what these bocce athletes are doing is huge, we have not been able to hold such a spectacle for a few decades. Be sure to spread the word, we can't wait to see everyone in a few weeks and the most exciting action that bocce draws. Bowl Throw, Precision***



Bowling and Mixed Rapid Relay all within the same event, the best Championship on bocce courts that Australia has ever had this century. We can't wait." (ff)



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!

CONTACT

Tel: +61 0417 339 640

eMail: info@bocceaustralia.com.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bocceaustralia>

Web: www.bocceaustralia.com.au

