

# BOCCE AUSTRALIA



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

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## Top stories in this newsletter



**World Junior U18 & U23 Championships 2019 WRAP-UP**

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**Mersin Turkey getting ready for World Bocce Titles.....**

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## WRAP-UP - World Junior U18 & U23 Championships 2019

*'It's a wrap for another year for the World Juniors and what a great tournament it was...'*  
"Congratulations to all the countries who secured a medal and for all participants, organisers and volunteers involved. We look forward to competing again at next years World Junior Championships" said BA delegate Sonia Fava.

For Australia it was a successful Bocce World campaign, although many of Team Australia juniors were unavailable due to school commitments it was a dedicated Daniel and Nicole Samsa that took on the challenge and represented Australia on the international bocce stage. Both players competed in the Denis Ravera International Bocce Challenge, Monaco and the World Junior U18/U23 World Titles, Italy.



**In Monaco, which is a great preliminary event for young up and coming bocce players, Team Australia did exceptionally well** with Nicole Samsa awarded the U23 player for the Denis Ravera International Challenge. Great recognition - Go Nicole!! And Australia winning Bronze in the Doubles. The Denis Ravera is a great precursor event for the World Juniors, especially for Australia as it gives the players an opportunity to compete against



some of the top teams from Europe, Africa and South America. First time International Australian Junior Coach, Joe Rozzo was very excited and proud of the team's results.

Both Daniel and Nicole were very competitive, making through to the semi-finals. Team Australia were unfortunate to be drawn to play against Croatia in the semi finals. A tough team to beat and our Aussies kicked off with the winning point however, the Croatians kept the pressure on the entire time proving too good and defeating Australia 13:5 and having Australia play-off for 3rd place against Monaco.

The Monaco team had home crowd support and the likeable Gianni Bresciano (who has also competed in Australia at the Asia Oceania Junior championships) was in fine form. It was a close challenge with Australia keeping the lead the entire game but it came down to Monaco to hit a shot to draw which they got but the Aussie ball stayed in the point. An exciting and well deserved victory to our Aussies defeating Monaco 7:5 and Australia winning 3rd place. Congratulations Nicole and Daniel.



In the Throwing events, Daniel Samsa qualified in the top 8 for the precision throw event. An early qualifying game saw the top players off to a slow start and unexpectedly knocked out of the event. Daniel finished ranked #5 just missing out on making the top 4 for the finals. Congratulations to Italy, Montenegro, Serbia and Argentina who went onto win medals in the throwing event.

*Thank you Monaco and all the volunteers for hosting yet another great Denis Ravera International Challenge.*



## World Junior Bocce Under 18 & Under 23 Championships, Italy

The Junior Bocceroos were a hit when they arrived in Alassio, Italy. The Italian media loving our Aussie team.....interviews, photographs and double page spreads. The publicity received was unprecedented but it was much appreciated as the team received support from the locals.



**SPORTAUS**



## Alassio World Junior Championships

### Double Rapid Throw U23

Round 2 was incredible, only proving that Round 1, was only a warm up for some of the leading teams. Italy, France and Croatia all scoring over 50 in their heats just to name a few. Unfortunately the Aussies didn't qualify in Round 2 with only 20 hits but Team Australia did see our friends from Asia Oceania region (Japan) improve their score in Round 2 with 33 hits. Well done Japan!

### Round 1 Doubles- U23 Australia vs Peru

It was a tough game against Peru, despite our team starting off with a 3 point lead. Unfortunately our Aussies were below their best and Peru utilised every opportunity to their full advantage. Peru defeating Australia 13 :4

However, It is only Round 1 and after a positive debrief with their coach our Aussie team were focused and ready to take on Japan in round 2.

### Australia vs Japan

Our Aussie team found their groove with a better performance by both Nicole and Daniel against Japan. Japan's inconsistency with their pointing allowed our team to take advantage and keep a strong lead the entire game winning 13:3. Having secured this win it was now one last opportunity in the **barrage** to stay in the Doubles competition. Team Australia needed to win against Argentina who in their last round against Peru were defeated 13:0.

### Australia vs Argentina

We did it! Team Australia makes it through to the quarter finals! It was a very close game against Argentina. Our Aussies kept the lead most of the game but some critical plays missed, allowing Argentina to stay in the game. We allowed them to gain some points before the buzzer forcing a draw 9:9. An extra end was played and Daniel & Nicole were on fire and held their nerve to come out victorious. Well done Aussies!

### Quarter Finals—Australia vs Slovenia

The team were switched on in the beginning in particular Nicole who was on point against her competitors but unfortunately our team were unable to capitalise on the first 3 end advantages.

After a brief time out, called by the Slovenian coach the Slovenians lifted their game and refocused in a way that we could not match. In the end, Slovenia proved too strong with a 13 : 2 win. Whilst a disappointing outcome we are pleased that our team achieved a quarter final position and play off for a 5th to 8th placement.

### U23 Doubles 5th –8th playoff Australia vs Croatia

Although Croatia was not in their usual peak form in the playoffs our Aussies took advantage and defeated Croatia 13:8 to secure 6th place in the U23 Doubles event at the Alassio World Junior U18/U23 Championships. Camera crews and a crowd of spectators cheered the teams along. It was a great atmosphere and a fabulous outcome for our Aussie team. **Well done Nicole, Daniel and coach Joe Rozzo.**

Our Aussie team were motivated and inspired by competing in this event at the Junior World Championship and look forward to some intense training sessions when they get back home where they will put this experience to good use. **Thanks Daniel and Nicole Samsa , Coach Joe Rozzo and Delegate Sonia Fava. You did Bocce Australia proud!** Ff & Sf



# Celebrating 50 years— Senior Bocce Nationals in 2020 !



To celebrate this milestone we have a number of projects that we are looking at running. One such project we would like to explore is to produce a commemorative pictorial book to mark the 50th Anniversary of Bocce as an organized sport in Australia.

We have the will power, the ideas but lack the funds to support such a milestone.

To help celebrate this significant milestone in Australia's sporting landscape, if every bocce member donated \$100 to our GOFUNDME fund raising campaign we would have sufficient funds to run commemorative events in every state and affiliated clubs.

**For all donations of \$100 your name will be listed in appreciation.**

***If all bocce members donated or fundraised \$100 each we would achieve our target goal! Remember that you don't have to do it alone, your employer, family and friends may wish to contribute to our milestone event and \$100 is just 5-10 people donating \$10-20each!!***

Go to the link <https://www.gofundme.com/f/n7c9c-bocce>

***If you are not computer savvy donate to your State Federation & they will upload into the GO FUND ME account.***



## Men's Senior Team getting ready for World

The Australian Men's team comprising of Dino Mikolic, Daniel Samsa, Santo Pascuzzi, Tony Palermo and Angelo Parisi have been preparing for the World Titles in Mersin, Turkey.

The five day event will begin on 5th November with the official opening and then straight into the competition with the Doubles first game Wednesday 8:30am 6th November.

The best Men's bocce players around the world will compete in Singles, Doubles, Bowl Throw, and the Throwing events and conclude with a playoff to determine the overall champions.

"I feel the biggest challenge for us is to be switched on for the four days straight of qualifying, both mentally and physically. In addition, the key will be to stay on top of the precision bowling and throwing, as it will be a very tight competition", said BA Interna-



tional coach Franco Fava.

Also attending the championships will be Bocce Australia President Frank Funari & Vice-President Tony Biancacci. They will also be present for this year's World Congress which is important as key decisions need to be made with regards to the future format of the sport of Bocce.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge that awaits us, and I'm confident that all our practice sessions and preparation will hold us in good stead to be able to work together and bowl at our best" said experienced National Coaching Director & Vice-President Bocce Australia, Tony Biancacci.

The 2019 team will boast a mixture of experience and rookies to represent the country on the world stage with a full compliment team. Tony Palermo (Vic) and Angelo Parisi (Vic) will be two members making their debut in the green and gold. A debut that Parisi has had in the Juniors but will be his first time as a Senior player.

"It's an absolute honour to have been chosen to represent Australia. It's been a dream of mine since I started as a player and still pinch myself so lucky to have been given such an amazing opportunity to wear the green & gold"...said Tony Palermo.

International experienced players Dino, Santo and Daniel are keen to have a 'crack' at this year's world championships. "I have now competed in many a International events and I am incredibly excited to get back into the Green & Gold and show our country and the rest of the world that WE are ready for the challenge, we can compete with the best (even as amateurs) and give it a red hot crack". ...,said World Silver medallist Dino Mikolic. *Ff*

## Bocce Sport's latest coaches

To be a successful bocce player and team, players need coaches, from junior Clubs through to senior as well as representative teams. Coaches are role models and vital to the development of players both on and off of the field.



Bocce Australia, in partnership with Special O's Bocce are dedicated to ensuring that educated and high-quality coaches continue to develop throughout the sport of bocce in all abilities. One of our key focuses is to ensure that adequately qualified coaches are practicing on appropriate teams, with a high focus on our junior and Special O's sectors.

Tony Biancacci, National Coaching Director ran a Level 1 coaching clinic, endorsing 12 new coaches. The group of Special O's coaches had been waiting for a few years to have this course and with the help of Michael Migliaccio a course was arranged. Special O's Victoria sector are now ready to formalise their sport specific coaching dossier and are in a good position to launch Special O bocce courses.

***Sports Coaching can provide great game fulfillment and challenge while also taking you around the world as part of this global sport of bocce.***

If you are interested in completing a coaching course please contact [info@bocceaustalia.com.au](mailto:info@bocceaustalia.com.au) to express your interest. *ff*



# BOCCE HOT NEWS!

## Hong Kong Bocce meets Bocce Australia !



L-R: Frank Funari, Tony Biancacci, Anna Biancacci, Michelle Chung and Tommy Chung

**Melbourne** — Bocce Australia recently met up with good friends Tommy and Michelle from Hong Kong Bocce. Both were in Australia attending a Lawn Bowls coaching clinic in Bendigo, Victoria. Tommy and Michelle are keen sports people as they play all forms of bocce such as Volo, Raffa and Petanque plus Lawn Bowls. They combine the love of the sport, with food and holidays - what better way to see the world and enjoy the sights, & the food while playing bocce! When we mentioned the Australian Bocce Raffa Open was to be held next March in Port Lincoln, they were very interested to participate and wanted details, especially as it is the fish capital of Australia. Wonderful to be together again & hope to see them back for the Raffa Open in Port Lincoln next March 2020. ff



### David Marks & committee endorsed for Bocce Victoria

The BFV committee was endorsed for another two year term at the recent AGM for Bocce

Victoria. David Marks was keen to see another term to ensure that his initiatives that are in progress are implemented as planned. The numbers in attendance at the AGM were low this year and the change of venue may not have helped. Nevertheless it was a productive meeting with a healthy discussion by all interested in the future of the sport. BFV were again successful in securing support from Dept Sport & Rec and as Frank Palermo stated it is imperative that all affiliated Bocce clubs are on board to help achieve the deliverables that the government are wanting from all sports including Bocce Sport. Sport is seen as a way to a better lifestyle and a healthy nation. Some of the initiatives are a central members database, introduction of more simpler forms of the game and increased participation membership. ff



**AUSTRALIAN MASTERS GAMES— THE WARP UP IN THE OCTOBER eNEWSLETTER EDITION !**

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