



## November 2016 Newsletter

### Opening Comment

It's been a while since the last true Newsletter, so this one will go over a number of recent important issues and bring, particularly the new members of the club, up to date with the sort of activities we get up to throughout the year.

### 2016-2017 Committee

WHRPC's financial year runs from 1 July to the following 30 June, and each year the AGM is held in late July. The (unconfirmed) Minutes of the 2016 AGM are available on the club's website: [www.petanquesttherock.com.au](http://www.petanquesttherock.com.au). To see these, click on the Documents link. Your committee is:

President: David Shaw  
Vice President: Helen Cottew  
Treasurer: Carol Richards  
Secretary: Peter Wells  
Members are: Jill Shaw, Louise Potter and Marilyn Steel

Generally, we have a Committee Meeting once a month.

### Petanque in Victoria

In Victoria there are currently 23 petanque clubs affiliated with PFA (Petanque Federation Australia). There are about 1500 licenced players in Australia, 800 of them in Victoria. Licenced players can play at any club event or any event hosted by other clubs on the VPCI (Victoria Petanque Club Inc; but usually shortened to Petanque Victoria) Calendar. The Calendar is at [www.petanquevictoria.com.au](http://www.petanquevictoria.com.au)

Two relatively new clubs in Victoria are Smythesdale Petanque Club (about 20 km south-west of Ballarat), and The Grampians Petanque Club (based at Hall's Gap). Smythesdale held its inaugural event a few weeks ago.

### N-W Region Clubs

The 23 Victorian clubs are divided into 3 Regions, N-W, S-E and Metropolitan. WHRPC is in the N-W Region along with the Pyrenees (Avoca), Sunbury, Mt Macedon (Gisborne), Maldon, Benloch (Lancefield) and Nagambie clubs. The Region has a Development Fund that is contributed to (modestly) by the 3 largest clubs for the future development of petanque in this N-W Region.

Each year these seven N-W Region Petanque Clubs compete for the N-W Region Challenge Cup; currently held by the Pyrenees Petanque Club that will host the 2017 event on Sunday 23 April in 2017.

### WHRPC Members

There are now 58 Full Members at our club, all who hold PFA licences. In addition, the club holds 2 Club Licences

that, at its discretion, it can offer to non-licenced players. This enables a friend or visitor of a member to play in a Tournament and to be insured. If you ever require such a licence then please approach a member of the Committee.

The club also has 4 Social Members who each hold their PFA licence at another club. At present Social Members of WHRPC have all the same rights, privileges and responsibilities of Full Members, apart from not being able to hold a Committee position at the club or vote at our AGM.

### Summer Social Play

The club offers members the chance to play every Thursday evening from about 5.20 pm to 8.30 pm during daylight saving time. The club levies a charge of \$5 per person for these evenings, and also provides a BBQ dinner, but BYO your own drinks, please. The club has recently changed the arrangements for the BBQ and now provides everything for the meal and simply requests that members put their names on to a roster to actually cook the meat and lay out the salads.

As you arrive for these Thursday evening games, if you wish to play petanque please make sure your magnetic nameplate is put on the left side of the shelter server door (that shows the draw for the next game). If you leave early, then please remove your nameplate and so avoid being drawn for the next game!

### Summer Star Award

Each year, arising from these social Thursday evening games, we award at the AGM a trophy and a small gift to the best player based upon the scores that are recorded. So if you do win a game on a Thursday evening make sure you fill in a score sheet correctly (as the losers certainly won't do it for you!)

The previous Summer Star Award presented at the 2016 AGM was won by Shirley Marshall.

### Other Social Games

As well as the social Thursday evening games, the club also organises an occasional game during the Winter months, including a game for members around 14 July to celebrate Bastille Day – petanque is, after all, a French game. These games are listed on the Club Calendar (on our website) and all members are given plenty of warning by email. Members who own properties that could be used to play petanque are encouraged to contact the Committee.

## Special Event Games

Each year we also hold 3 other special events. They are:

**Echuca Murray Maul.** This is held in mid- to late-August each year in the Port of Echuca and is an 'invitation-only' event, to which we invite all our club members plus friends from the Pyrenees, Maldon and Nagambie Petanque Clubs. Other long-time friends of our club also get an invite to a fun filled weekend of eating and drinking with the occasional game (actually 8 in total) of petanque. This is conducted as a Melee event where, for each round, you play with and against a different set of 3 players in Triples Teams. The winner receives a shield donated by the Cohens.

**Ian Castle Memorial Petanque Event.** This is held usually in early April, to which we invite all club members and friends plus the family and friends of the late Ian Castle. Ian, for those somewhat new to the club, was the driving force behind the construction of the Hanging Rock Shelter we use as our 'home base'.

Again, this activity tends to be run as a Triples Melee event to mix up players and visitors alike as much as possible. Always a great day of petanque and a special way to remember a great friend of the club.

**Rootes Group Car Club Challenge** (better known as the Rockers vs Rooters). Played now for 4 years in mid-October, where we challenge the members of the group of car clubs that include Singer, Hillman, Sunbeam and Humber. This means we play against a backdrop of about 20 vintage and veteran cars lined up beside the pistes. We run the event in a way that slightly advantages our visitors and they have taken the trophy in 3 of the 4 years – so a real challenge! Keep this date free in 2017 – we need you!

## Victorian Petanque Calendar

All other tournaments are essentially arranged by the VPCI and are on the Victorian Petanque Calendar at [www.petanquevictoria.com.au/calendar.htm](http://www.petanquevictoria.com.au/calendar.htm)

While only a few current club members regularly compete in Victoria Calendar events, we do encourage you to consider entering 1 or 2 in 2016-2017. While they are formal Tournaments, generally they are also great fun – and we particularly encourage our members to support tournaments run by the other clubs in our N-W Region, particularly those events run by the Mt Macedon Petanque Club, the Pyrenees (Avoca) Petanque Club and the Nagambie Petanque Club. And of course, our own PATR (Petanque at the Rock) Mixed Triples in November each year.

Full details of these events are also available, along with online registration, at [www.mypetanque.com](http://www.mypetanque.com)

So what follows at the top of the next column are a few of the tournaments coming up in the near future you might consider participating in.

## Sat-Sun 19-20 November – Avoca Open Triples

The best social event of the year that is a proper Tournament, conducted by our friends at the Pyrenees Petanque Club. This event is held in the main street of Avoca where you meet some of the best players in Victoria and South Australia, but in a very friendly atmosphere. Great fun. And still plenty of time to get a team together.

## Sunday 27 November – PATR Mixed Triples

This is our only Tournament of the year and played as a Mixed Triples (so both genders must be represented in each team). Held at Hanging Rock and a 'must' for all our members if they can make it. See a Committee Member if you are not already down to play in about 2 weeks' time.

## Sunday 4 December – Victorian Championship Mixed Doubles at Camberwell

You might feel this is way out of your league, but you would be wrong! This is, for the first time, to be played in 3 Divisions, so you will only be playing against teams of similar standard to your own. And you could win substantial monetary rewards and other prizes.

There are Tournament events almost every weekend (almost always on a Sunday) throughout the year and at a very wide range of clubs, from St Andrew Beach on the back-beach of the Mornington Peninsula, Apollo Bay in the far west and Nagambie in the north. If you look at the Calendar there is something for everyone – and with an average registration fee of \$20 per player at each event.

## Hanging Rock Planning

The local community is now in lengthy discussions about the future planning and management of the Hanging Rock Reserve, and the club has a representative on the Hanging Rock Planning Committee. The shire is keen for petanque to continue and expand at the Hanging Rock Reserve, and we will keep you informed as to developments.

## Club Finances

The club has at present a pretty healthy bank balance of around \$11,000, and aims to use this to support the club and its members in playing, and enjoying petanque. Most of our profits come from the two main fundraising events we hold each year; the Ian Castle Day and the Rockers vs Rooters Challenge. The other events we hold are generally done to 'break even' to keep costs to members at a minimum.

If you have any suggestions/ideas to improve your experiences at the Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club, please let the committee know of them – it is, after all, your club.

## WHRPC Contact Information

Email: [secretary@petanqueattherock.com](mailto:secretary@petanqueattherock.com)

or [peter\\_wells@fastmail.com.au](mailto:peter_wells@fastmail.com.au)

Mail: PO Box 229, Woodend, 3442

Phone: 0407 302 308 or 5420 7595

Web: <http://www.petanqueattherock.com.au>