



Maryborough and District Hockey Association Inc



Nomination for ...

Association of the Year

Hockey is awesome!

It's cool being part of a team!

Development of Facilities

Water Based Surface

Our first water-based artificial surface was completed in 2005 and was in need of replacement by the end of the 2013 season. The fact that we were able to get almost 10 years of service out of this surface is a testament to our grounds men, clubs, members and volunteers.

Aware this replacement would need to be funded by our association, the MDHA put together a working committee to investigate the best way forward.

This committee worked tirelessly for over 12 months investigating surfaces that were available. This included looking at improvements in technology since 2005, which surface would provide the best value for money, give us the longevity of the previous surface and be environmentally friendly (as far as water use was concerned).

The MDHA would like to acknowledge the assistance received from many of our kindred associations from throughout Queensland. Committee member Paul Tucker worked overtime contacting as many associations as possible, so that we were able to make an informed decision.

We needed to borrow a substantial amount of money from the Bank, so the process of negotiating a suitable loan with manageable interest rates was under way. Sound financial practices and our asset base allowed us to secure the loan required. We have a long road ahead, and provided we maintain our current player base, we will be able to maintain payments and remain viable.

We were unable to secure government funding for this project, but we were determined to provide the best facilities we could for our players, despite the cost. So we put out a shout for Volunteers to lend a hand to remove the old turf and shock pad.

So it was, in the summer heat of January, working in early morning and evening shifts our crew of more than 100 helpers removed over thirty tonnes of old turf and rubber by hand. Completed in 4 days over two weekends, we managed to cut upwards of \$25,000 from the project's cost.

Out with the old ...



In with the new ...



Water Management

At the start of 2014, Queensland, and in particular the Wide Bay, was in the grip of one of the driest summers on record. Although the fine weather was a bonus when it came to construction of the turf, it was of no help whatsoever, when it came time to use it.

Our season was due to commence in March 2014 and we had had little or no rain since October 2013. As the new turf was still two weeks from completion, we decided to commence our season using the grass fields only (a bit of a culture shock for our senior teams, with some players having not played on grass for many years).

However, our grass fields were so dry we were in danger of not being able to start the season on time. Cracks were appearing in the ground, grass was almost non-existent and add into the mix that we were due to host the biggest State Championships (Masters Women) in the state, things did not look good. Even our bore water was unusable!

We decided to make arrangements to purchase water if needed for the Championships. We had our tanks (which were full thanks to one storm over Christmas), but this would only last us a few days. In order to host the Masters, we needed thousands of litres of water, and as we were under strict water restrictions, we had no choice but to truck water in if required.

We worked with Wide Bay Water on a Water Management Plan to see us through this rough patch. We continue to work with them today in order to be able to effectively manage our facility. Water is such a precious resource, and we need to stay vigilant and use it wisely.

By the end of March, the 'weather gods' smiled on us with more rain than we knew what to do with. As a result our grass fields came alive again, the groundsman and the committee breathed a collective sigh of relief – our tanks were full again and water restrictions were lifted.

Lighting on Grass Fields

During the lead up to the 2013 Federal Election, we secured funding from the Federal Government for floodlighting on two of our grass fields. The State Government has also contributed to this project, which got under way immediately following the 2014 season.

This project will see clubs being able to train on grass under lights, which has not been possible for a number of years. Once again we called for volunteers to lend a hand and as always they were more than willing. This effort ensured the project stayed on budget.



The MDHA is also looking at hiring this facility to other organizations once it is up and running. We have had interest from sports as diverse as auskick, soccer, croquet and softball, ensuring that the community as a whole will benefit.

A Gala opening of the new floodlights is planned for the middle of the year, with all the fun of the fair planned, with market stalls, demonstrations and even a car show!





Special Events



2014 Queensland Masters Women's Championships

Maryborough was honoured to be selected to host the Queensland Masters Women's Championships in May 2014. This was a very special year indeed, celebrating thirty years of Women's Masters Hockey in Queensland.

Due to the significance of the celebrations, there were extra events scheduled in addition to the normal running of a tournament. This included the

- "Meet and Greet" for 'everyone' on the Friday prior to the Championships
- Queensland Players and Officials Reunion on the Saturday evening and
- a massive display, in our Hockey Hall, documenting 30 Years of Masters

The Maryborough Masters Committee worked tirelessly for more than six months to ensure that the weekend was a huge success. This Championship is the largest in Queensland each year, with more than 40 teams competing. The logistics of running a tournament of this size is mind-boggling and we added to this by replacing the Turf at same time. However the whole weekend ran like clockwork, due to sound planning, lots of MDHA volunteers, and wonderful weather.

The MDHA would like to acknowledge the assistance of Linda Hunter (Chair of the Hockey Queensland Women's Masters Committee) along with Maryborough stalwarts Anne Proctor, Myra Reilly, Mary Frederiksen, who all worked to ensure that the Historical Display of 30 years of Masters Hockey in Queensland was comprehensive.



We were indeed proud to not only host the Championships, but also take out both the Division 1 and Division 5 Titles for 2014. Many of our players were rewarded with State Caps as well, so all in all it was one of our most successful tournaments.



Celebrating 30 years of Women's Masters Hockey in Queensland

Wide Bay Premier League

Club teams from Maryborough, Gympie, Bundaberg, and Hervey Bay play in this competition on a yearly basis. It is run on a home and away basis over 10 weeks, culminating in a Final Series played over two weekends. The Grand Final each year is hosted by the Centre with the greatest number of teams in those finals.

In 2014 all four Grand Finalists came from Maryborough, so we again played host to the final of this prestigious competition.

Player Development



Combined Junior Sign On

As has been our practice for many years, we organized a Combined Club Junior Sign On. This was held at the MDHA grounds in February, with our primary aim to try and field junior teams in all Clubs.

The sign-on took the form of a fun day, with hockey activities, jumping castles and face painting for the kids. We saw an increase in our 'tinies', but continue to struggle with numbers in the Junior Boys divisions in particular.

The MDHA also established a Junior Development Committee a couple of years ago. This committee works in conjunction with the Development Officer to develop initiatives, offer programs for both players and umpires and create opportunities for our clubs to grow and thrive.

State Championship Participation

Maryborough Teams competed in the Wide Bay Zone Championships and in all State Championships (in some instances more than one team participated). We have also re-established our Masters Men's Competition over the past few years, and this team is also again competing in Queensland Championships.

Maryborough is indeed proud of our record at Queensland Championship level, not just due to the fact that some of our teams have won their respective titles, but from a participant stand point as well. We always aspire to have at least one team in every division possible – a credit to our Rep Coaches, Managers, Selectors and of course the players.

In addition to the State Championships, we also have teams participate in the Southern Cross and Coulter Shield competitions, albeit on an invitational basis. These two competitions give our Under 11 Girls and Boys divisions in particular, the opportunity to participate in a Tournament, as this age level is not included in the Queensland Championship Roster.

State / National / Development Squads

Players from this Association again achieved success on the representative scene. Players from Maryborough were selected in all the Junior Grades from U/13 to U/18 in both Boys and Girls. Maryborough was also represented in the Queensland Country Men and Women as well as the Masters Women's divisions, with Myra Reilly, Rebecca Greiner and Jess Switzer all gaining National Selection in their respective divisions.

Maryborough has long been known as a hockey city and the breeding ground of champions, having produced 6 Olympic Players. This tradition continues and some those selected this year could well be the Olympians of the future.

Goal Keeper Development

Maryborough is lucky enough to have the skills and talent of a specialist Goal Keeping coach in Jeff Daley. Jeff conducts weekly sessions for goalkeepers of all standards – from beginners to the elite.

He works tirelessly with these specialist players, and was rewarded in 2014, when one of his charges, Jess Switzer, gained National selection.

Jeff conducts these clinics in his own time and is motivated by the fact that he sees improvement in every player that attends his sessions. The MDHA would like to thank Jeff for his service, and we also acknowledge the great job he does with these players.



Indoor Hockey

Over the past few years, Maryborough has become a force to be reckoned with in the game of Indoor Hockey. We have competed in both Girls and Boys from Under 13 through to seniors. Many of our players have gained Queensland Representation and we have hosted several State Championships.

The venue for our Indoor Hockey is at the Maryborough Showgrounds, and the fact that we were able to host Queensland Championships, when our participation was in its infancy is a credit to the people on our committee (and in particular Lyn Tucker) who have a passion for Indoor Hockey.



Other Player Development

During 2014 our Regional Development Officer, Cheryll Brown, worked with our Junior and Senior players, conducting development sessions on a weekly basis for players of all standards. These sessions were invaluable in the lead up to State Championships with a number of our players being named in either State Teams or Squads.

Each school term, Cheryll also visited many of the schools in our district, teaching new skills to kids that would not normally be exposed to hockey. These sessions are a platform for player recruitment, and an effective tool used by our association.

2015 sees Cheryll leave the role of RDO, and the MDHA would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution she has made to our association over the past 14 years. During that time she has coached and mentored not only many players, but umpires and coaches as well. We wish her well in the future.

Our newly appointed Development Officer, Jye Weller, started in March 2015, and we look forward to working with him.



Volunteers

While we have highlighted a couple of key events that brought out the very best in our Volunteers, it is the ongoing support they give all year long that really keeps the Association running as efficiently as it does.

Our clubs are on a roster to man the Canteen/Bar/Office each week and their members volunteer freely, never letting us down. They toil away to turn our marginal existence into a tidy profit.

As with all Associations our volunteers are the mainstay of one's operations, however the MDHA believes we have been delivered the "**best of them**", and we thank them for their efforts.



Where to from here?

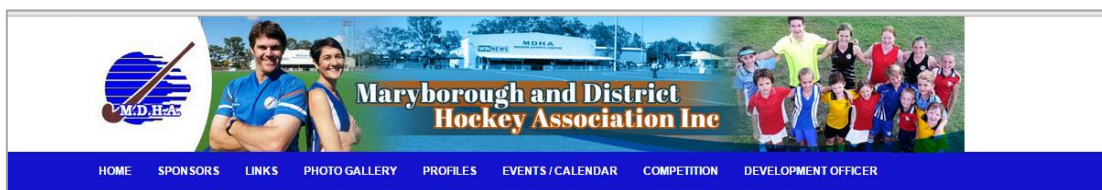
Online ... where else!

Over the past couple of years, Maryborough has embraced all forms of technology. Starting with our Website, which is now updated daily with fixtures, meeting reports, development activities, other information and photos.

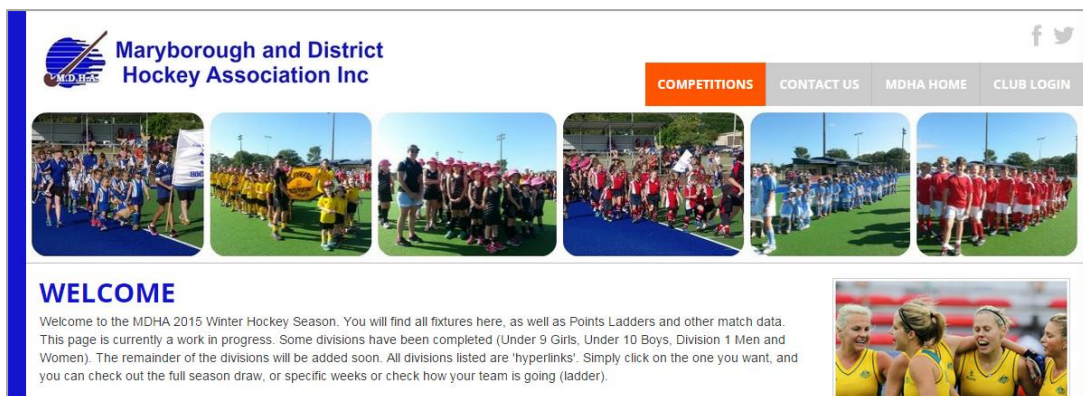
If it's happening at hockey, you'll find it online. Our Website has become one of our main forms of communication, with all members consulting it on a weekly (and in some cases daily) basis.

With the advent of all things IMG, we are utilizing both MembersDesq and SportDesq for our player database and all competitions. This includes publishing all our fixtures online. Our Records Secretaries are now recording all match information through SportsDesq as well. This means that clubs and coaches no longer need to contact these people personally to find out how many games someone has had, or how the points are going ... we just say:

"Check the Website, it's all online"



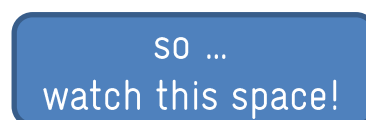
Visit our Website: www.maryboroughhockey.asn.au



In addition to the Website, EventDesq, MembersDesq and SportsDesq, you can also find us on Facebook or follow us on twitter. Instagram is our next target ...



Maryborough Hockey Association



Tweet to: @HockeyMDHA

CONCLUSION

Since 1932, the MDHA has continued to grow, and is one of the largest sports in Maryborough. On a per capita basis, Maryborough is the largest hockey centre in Queensland and it would not be unreasonable to say that approximately 1 in 4 people in our city are either directly or indirectly involved in this great game -whether as a player, coach, umpire, parent, supporter or volunteer.

Apart from the contribution to the health and fitness of the community, hockey also plays a large role in the economy of Maryborough. The amount of money generated from a single tournament is substantial – and with the Masters in 2014, it would have been in the range of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Add to this the normal every day costs of running an Association the size of ours, with things like outfitting teams with uniforms, the purchase of shoes and playing equipment as well as infrastructure upgrades and improvements, hockey has an enormous effect on the economy of our city.

Over the past four or five years our player numbers in some of the Junior divisions in particular have unfortunately decreased, but it is hoped that with new strategies (like “Hook In2 Hockey”) and our combined sign-ons that we will be able to increase player participation as we move forward.

Maryborough & District Hockey Association has always taken a pro-active role in all areas of the sport both locally and state wide. We hope that you give favourable consideration to this nomination.



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