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THE AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 1957 PRESENTED AT  
THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT THE AMATEUR SPORTS CLUB, MELBOURNE  
ON FRIDAY 26TH JULY, 1957.

OFFICERS FOR 1956

President	Mr. J.L.Garden
Vice President	Messrs. H.R.Balmer and A.H.Taylor
Hon. Secretary	Mr. I.J.Taylor
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. A.E.Gordon Webb
Hon. Auditor	Mr. K.H.Boykett

Mr. President and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I submit for your approval, the Twenty sixth Annual Report covering the year 1956.

Registered Players. The following table sets out the number of teams and players, including schools, in each State, for the season under review also for the previous year. The figures relating to the post war year of 1939 is retained in the table as the target to be achieved. It will be noted that the figures over the past three years are static, no progress worth recording has been made in any State. This is a serious state of affairs and calls for the immediate attention of all concerned.

	<u>1956</u>		<u>1955</u>		<u>1954</u>		<u>1939</u>	
	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Players</u>	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Players</u>	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Players</u>	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Players</u>
Victoria	44	625	39	583	37	588	65	1139
S. Aus.	39	553	40	584	42	584	55	809
West Aus.	28	350	25	336	29	335	24	417
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C'wealth	111	1528	104	1503	108	1507	144	2365

The Australian Lacrosse Carnival. The outstanding event of the year was the Thirteenth Australian Lacrosse Carnival which was held in Perth during the month of August. The Council congratulates Western Australia the host Association for the splendid manner in which the Carnival was organized. The field arrangements were excellent, while as regards the social side the well known West Australian hospitality was overwhelming. Among the many official functions a Civic Reception by the Lord Mayor of Perth, an evening at Gloucester Park as the guests of the W.A. Trotting Association

and the Carnival Ball were outstanding.

Although only three States competed the majority of the games were of a very high standard, the matches between South Australia and Victoria and Western Australia and Victoria were very evenly contested the latter game in particular, on which the result of the Carnival hinged until the sounding of the final bell.

The "Brady Trophy" for the most outstanding player in Australia, was awarded for the first time and was won by Alan Gandy of South Australia. The Council offers its congratulations to Alan on being the first player to receive this award, and also to the Victorian team on again winning the Garland-McHarg Cup.

The games resulted as follows:-

South Australia	21 goals	V	Western Australia	8 goals.
Victoria	13 "	V	South Australia	11 "
Victoria	6 "	V	Western Australia	5 "

Championship Table

	<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Points</u>
Victoria	2	2	-	19	16	4
South Aust.	2	1	1	32	21	2
West Aust.	2	-	2	13	27	-

Australian Team. At the conclusion of the Carnival the following were selected to present Australia:-

Goalm. M. Kinderman (Vic.) point, K. Forrest (S.A.) cover  
 C. Mounsey (W.A.) 3rd man J. Heathcote (Vic.) Captain, defences,  
 B. Comer (S.A.) and R. Sloggett (Vic.) centre - N.R. Jeffrey (Vic.)  
 attacks- R. Kean (S.A.) and V. Ellis (W.A.) 3rd Home, I. Mountford  
 (Vic.) 2nd Home T. Campbell (Vic.) Home, A. Gandy (S.A.)  
 Reserves E. Brown (W.A.) and B. Nottage (S.A.)

A congratulatory letter from the Council has been sent to each player selected.

The "Brady" Trophy. As instructed by the Council I communicated with Mr. Frank Brady and he has made it clear that it is the intention of his firm to present a trophy each year for the most outstanding player. I therefore circulated Member Associations and suggested certain rules for awarding the trophy. These were agreed to by the States, with the exception of the method of computing the points. This will be decided at tonight's meeting of the Council. In the meantime a secret ballot is being taken.

Anticipating your wishes I have conveyed the thanks of the Council to Mr. Brady.

Financial. The financial statement which will be presented tonight shows a credit balance at the Commonwealth Bank of £25. 19. 1.

Queensland Association. Mr. Brady in an endeavour to assist in resuscitating the game in Brisbane made a very generous offer in respect of the price of sticks, but so far without result.

I wrote to our friends in Brisbane acquainting them with Mr. Brady's offer, but I regret to say that so far I have not even been favoured with the courtesy of a reply.

Obituary. It is with deep regret that we record the passing of Mr. J.S. Hutcheon a former President of the Australian Lacrosse Council and the Queensland Lacrosse Association. The late Mr. Hutcheon rendered yeoman service to the game, both as a player and administrator over a great number of years.

The Council's sympathy is extended to his sorrowing relatives.

International Visit. A letter has been received from the Washington and Lee University suggesting that they visit Australia in 1959. Member Associations have been circularised requesting their views and the matter will come up for discussion at tonight's meeting of the Council.

State of Game. In the Annual Report last year, I made an exhaustive survey of the game during the post war years, and pointed out how lacrosse had fallen from its once proud position of being at the top of the ladder of Amateur Sports to its present low level.

I then went on to suggest certain innovations which I considered, if given a trial, might help to revitalise the game. However a majority of Member Associations at the Perth Meeting thought otherwise- and the question of how to instill greater interest in the game is still unanswered.

Feeling sure that no one can be happy with the present state of the game throughout Australia may I suggest that Member Associations have a further look at this vital problem and endeavour to formulate a plan that will lift lacrosse out of the morass in which it is bogged?

Personal. A few weeks ago I returned to Melbourne after a very enjoyable three months holiday in Western Australia. During my sojourn in Perth I had the pleasure of meeting the members of the W.A.Lacrosse Association, renewing many old friendships and getting acquainted with the younger generation. I would like to place on record my appreciation and thanks for the many acts of kindness extended to me during my stay.

On the way over to Perth and while the ship was in port I had the pleasure of meeting several members of the South Australian Lacrosse Association and was looking forward to seeing them again on the return journey. Unfortunately on the return trip between Albany and Adelaide I suffered a heart attack and acting on medical advice, I was forced to cancel any plans for visiting Adelaide. This was a great disappointment and I would just like to say to South Australia thank you for the arrangements you had made for my visit, which unfortunately I could not keep. However it was a wonderful tonic when Don. Hobbs kindly paid a visit to the ship and also on hearing Tom McCormick's voice on the phone. Thanks again both South Australia and Western Australia.

In conclusion I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to Mr. C.E.M.Hickey who acted in my stead as Secretary to the Council at the Perth meeting, owing to my illness.

Yours faithfully,

I.J.TAYLOR  
HON. SECRETARY. A.L.C.