



MR PAT MACGINLEY

(1949 - 2023)



The Australian Polo Federation honours and recognises the outstanding contribution to the sport of polo by Pat MacGinley. The President and Committee of the APF and the entire Australian polo community extend their deepest condolences to the MacGinley family. Pat MacGinley will be forever remembered as one of the greatest players in Australian polo history, acknowledged for his fine sportsmanship, extraordinary talent and peerless horsemanship.

An extraordinary horseman; an extraordinary career, an extraordinary life.

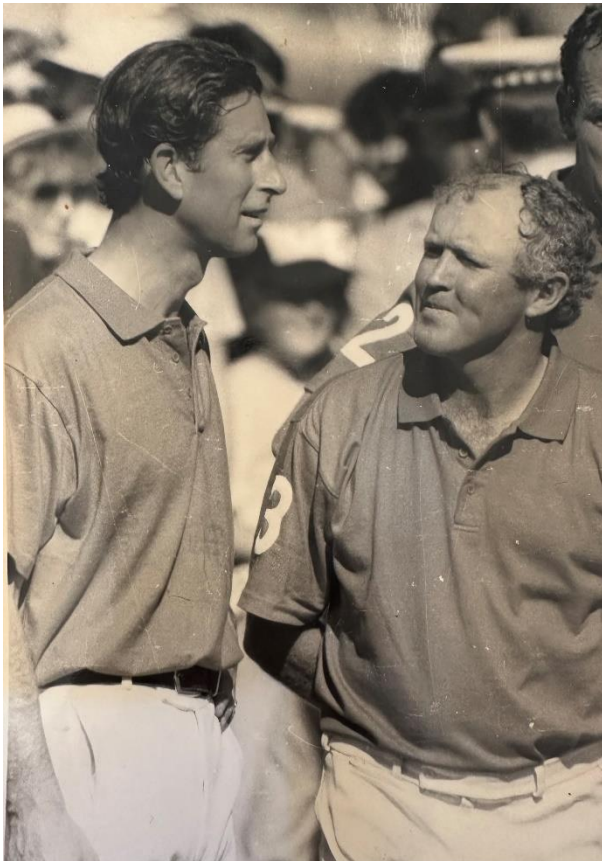


Glen Gilmore

"I was lucky enough to have been around Pat for most of my polo life. I grew up hearing Pat's name on and off the polo field. Passionate about horses and helping people, Pat was someone to look up to. His dry wit and ability to make light of a situation made him fun to be around. I was lucky enough to be on an NZ trip with Pat, where we laughed a lot and I learned a lot. Pat will be very much missed"

John Goold

"I played with and against Pat many times and he was always an enormous competitor. We played together in many state sides and he was such a team player. He was a gifted and natural player, but also one of the most natural horsemen I've seen. He's one of those few people who just seemed to be naturally part of the horse. He could play horses no-one else could get a chukka out of. Pat was a unique Australian who has left a major mark on the game."



"Pat with King Charles at Warwick Farm in the early 80's"

Sinclair Hill

"Pat was a great contributor to polo. He was from that great nursery of polo - the Darling Downs. He was a very talented player and was a player of great influence during Australia's golden years of polo"

Derek and Susie Gilmore

"True Horeseman. Very competitive polo player, loving family man and story teller. Had the gift long before it was popular to play a green Off The Track Thoroughbred and play it like a made horse. In the early days of Kooralbyn Polo a lot of afternoons were spent under the Yaloak trailer with a saddle for a pillow, just yarning, but somehow the work always got done. Pat will be hugely missed"

Katie Porteous

"Pat was a wonderful mentor, not just for polo and horsemanship, but also for life. He had a passion for helping players improve, and he also had an amazing memory for every horse that had ever played. I've been fortunate to hear many of his stories of growing up on the downs, training horses and working on the farm, travelling to New Zealand and America with Jimmy, and all the amazing people he met along the way. It was a privilege to play polo with his guidance and support, and to feel a part of his family."



GOONDIWINDI POLO CLUB

On behalf of the Goondiwindi and North Star Polo Clubs we would like to send our deepest condolences to Brigitte and the MacGinley Family on the very sad passing of Pat.

Clifton and The Downs tournaments and indeed Queensland polo in general just won't be the same without Pat.

He had a great knowledge of polo and he always good for a word of advice about horses, riding, hitting the ball and all things polo in general. We will also miss his chiropractic skills.

A true gentleman with a dry wit and someone who never aged RIP Pat.

From the Coultton, Gunn, Benson, Glasser, Doolin, Keen, Jackson, Field, Doyle and Holcombe families and all our other members.



"Pat riding "Maria Todd" at Kooralbyn"



Jim Gunn

"Pat MacGinley will be sorely missed to the polo community in Australia. His selfless dedication to helping with everything polo in this country was amazing. He could see a horse once and never forget it, no matter what level it played at or who rode it. His contribution to Jemalong winning Ellerston with amazing horse management was I think one of my greatest memories of Pat.

The other is playing with him his brother Jim and John Tait in Sydney 1985. It was the best team I was ever involved in and won all our games except for The Daily Telegraph Gold Cup at the RAS. We lost to USA in extra time.

He was a super horseman and a great polo player"



"Pat, playing on "Sequel" at Warwick Farm"

Robin Fitz-Henry on behalf of us all at FH Polo

"Pat MacGinley, a wonderful man and a legend in his time. Thank you, we will always remember.

Pat had a huge influence on us all at FH Polo. From the time we were asked to loan horses for the world cup held at Werribee Victoria 2001 and play in the "lenders" tournament at Ellerston. He recognised our love and passion for our horses and polo. Giving many years of sound advice and encouragement especially to all our children who have played. Internationally and nationally, including representing Australia. As well as the serious side there was also an amazing wry sense of humour. I will always remember his advice when going out on the field for some practice chukkas "whenever you go out on the field, always, play like you are playing a game"

Stuart Gilmore

"Pat was more than a polo player to me, he was a friend.

Pat grew up at Mt. Dunmore West Halton and it was inevitable he would play polo having come from the MacGinley dynasty. He started his career at the Downs Polo Club going on to represent Australia.

Having played with and against Pat, I can attest to the fact he was always a gentleman on and off the field. Having reached 6 goals, Pat played overseas and around Australia, known for his horsemanship and knowledge of a sport he loved. He was always keen to help others learn and in doing so created lifelong friendships.

I know I will miss Pat as will many others."



Tim Boyd

"I first got to know Pat when I started playing polo .

I would spend my university holidays staying with Brigitte and Pat at Bungendore when Pat and his brother Jim, worked for John Kilmartin . It was the most informative time, learning from the best about polo and horses. It was also very enjoyable having daily cricket matches in the breezeway of the stables. Pat's knowledge of horse breeding and training was astounding, he just loved his horses.

He was a great trainer of horses, closest to the best I have seen, he had the ability to play horses that were not so good and adapt his game to make them look good. I also had the pleasure over the years to spend time with Pat at Yaloak, Jemalong and Shoalhaven and always came away inspired and amazed at his knowledge of polo and horses.

When I was playing in America I was astounded by the number of people who knew Jim and Pat, they always said what great horsemen, polo players and nice people they were. Pat, Jim MacGinley and I were employed by Kooralbyn Golf Club to play polo for them, it was one of the most enjoyable and successful times I have had playing polo.

I was lucky enough to play with Pat on other occasions, he was always very determined, with a great ability to read the game and was a very clean, accurate hitter of the ball.

My son Charlie and I went to stay with Jim and Melinda to help with some horses when Jim was sick and Pat came to stay a night, we had a fantastic, amusing night just reminiscing, listening to their stories and watching their laughter and cheeky grins. Pat was very encouraging, though gave a stern word if he thought you needed it, but he was always a joy to be around"



"Pat playing in Victoria"



"Jim Gunn, Jim MacGinley, Pat MacGinley, John Tait"

Jeremy Bayard

"Pat's contribution to Australian polo deserves applause as he had a hand in helping many people start out and develop through his encouragement and coaching.

He delivered his advice with a dry wit and laconic style – which was always amusing. Many players in Victoria, NSW and QLD benefited from Pat's coaching and others from playing with and against a man who was exceptionally competitive on the field.

Post-polo, Pat was instrumental in helping establish the APF Hall of Fame. Pat was a member of the HOF selection panel since inception. His knowledge of the sport, clubs, people and ponies was exceptional.

Pat was also on the founding committee of the APF Past Polo Players Association – a vehicle established to keep former players in touch with the sport. His energy and enthusiasm for this project was unmatched. Pat had a significant appreciation of the history of the sport and the outstanding characters that littered its pages.

There is no doubt that he was one of them"



Greg Brabham

"Pat was a dear friend, mentor and support to me from when I first met him in 1994 at Jemalong as a 21 year old working on the Station.

After being invited to come and have a ride one day for 5 years we spent hours together almost every day where he took me from a beginner rider to a 1 goal player.

Our full speed stick and balling sessions on the fields at Jemalong were incredible. What I learnt from Pat and the opportunity I had to do this with a player and horseman of his calibre over these years is something that I have always appreciated and treasured.

Pat & Brigitte were tremendously generous to me with not only time, knowledge, and friendship but they also over the years gifted me 3 of their young horses that I made using the knowledge Pat shared with me and sold them to buy my first property and home. This certainly would have been impossible at the time without the help of Pat McGinley.

Pat continued to be a loyal friend after we followed different paths, regularly talking, and laughing about the funny times we had right up until two days before he passed away.

I am lucky, extremely fortunate, and truly blessed to have had the relationship I had with Pat and will miss him greatly"



"Pat Machinley, Tommy Llorente, Johnny Kahlbetzer, John Kahlbetzer"

Glynn Lawry

"Pat was always a cheery soul, a talented horseman, and one of the rare elite players in the tricky No 2 position.

Often playing No 1, I was able to witness Pat's skills in opposition as he & brother Jimmy (playing for Bungendore) did battle with our Goulburn team in the late 70s, & in an Australasian Gold Cup in 1985.

However, I was fortunate enough to be a team-mate in the all-conquering Kooralbyn team in the 1980 Australian Open, so I was able to fully appreciate his skills at close hand.

That team, which also included brother Jimmy & NZ's Stuart McKenzie, was probably the best-balanced team I have played in, with Pat proving to be the perfect foil at No 2 in this combination and providing an ideal platform for his No 1 to perform!

It was a privilege to play with him"

The Kahlbetzer Family

"RIP Pat.

What a horseman! Such a passion and caring for them.

You knew every horse, played by everyone. A horse could be pointed out playing, and you would tell us their history, pedigree, how they played and who they may be suitable for.

You did a legendary job putting our string together, without which, we wouldn't have achieved what we did.

Thanks for your dedication.

It is a rare gift to find a great player, horseman and manager in one person, but you achieved it in spades.

Enjoy the chukkas in heaven!

Much love

The Kahlbetzers"



Greg and Janis Kyte

"We first met Pat and Brigitte in 1988 when he asked Greg to play in the Melbourne cup tournament with Damien Johnson, Pat and Peter Yunghanns, which we won. After returning the following year to play the Melbourne cup tournament Pat offered Greg the job as Peter's polo manager and manager of the Yaloak Polo club. He had been Peters manager for 9 years.

Pat left strings of horses at Yaloak that he had bred or bought off the track along with breeding mares, foals, yearlings, and a stallion. He knew all their breeding and had a great eye for a perfect polo pony, purchasing green horses with specific successful breeding lines for polo.

His sense of humour was second to none and his competitiveness and talent as a player on the field was always hard to beat. Brigitte

tte was there beside him as a very experienced groom and support.

We as a family are ever grateful for the faith he had in us taking on what he had put together and built at Yaloak.

Sadly missed"

John Patterson

"Pat MacGinley like brother Jim, was a great servant to Australian Polo.

When Peter Yunghanns invited Pat to Yaloak, Victorian Polo as a whole began to benefit.

Pat was all to eager to give his time and experience to all who sought his advice, conducted many clinics and practices at the Yaloak grounds and even today, some 25 years later I still hear long retired players tell me the mid week games at Yaloak were some of the best times thanks to Pat.

Pat was one of those players who could get a game out of any horse and be competitive, but when well mounted and playing with brother Jim, they were nearly unbeatable. They just knew where each other were.

Pat was always willing to help in whatever capacity, whether it be on committees, goal keeping, commentating or coaching, he will be sadly missed around the Australian Polo fields."



"Pat winning at Kooralbyn"



Anto White

"Pat MacGinley – the quiet achiever"

I did not play a lot against Pat but I know he was a very offensive player and had very fast horses. I can remember one game I played against him and he was playing Number 1 and I was marking him as the opposition number 4. It was very much a game of "cat and mouse".

I have spent a lot of time with Pat on Handicap Committees and Selection Committees. When things were a little dull at a handicap meeting Pat would say "he must be worth another goal because they went to the Scone Junior Polo School.

Pat had a great polo brain and I always enjoyed the time I spent with him. Pat would write to me about different things we had to do to improve our game.

I think one of the greatest achievements was when Pat, Jim Gilmore and myself with the generosity of the Australian Polo Community, put together 280 polo ponies for the 2017 World Cup. Without Pat's this would not have happened. Pat had enormous respect from the polo community and people generously gave their best horses because Pat was involved.

Players all over the world have said this group of ponies was the best ever supplied for a World Cup.

Pat has left a big hole that I am sure will be very difficult to fill.

I will miss you Pat, but certainly never forget you.

Our thoughts are with your family"



"Pat, playing Louis at Warwick Farm"



"Pat playing in Victoria"

Gary Johnson, Forbes and Jemalong Polo Clubs

"Pat MacGinley was an outstanding contributor to Polo generally, but he will be best remembered by the Jemalong and Forbes club members for his skills and ability to improve the level of players horsemanship and his incredible skills in organising horses to compete and win against the best in this country.

From the moment Pat came to Forbes to manage the Kahlbetzer families polo operations he had a plan in his mind, on what was required to also attract and maintain local players and supporters. He with the support of Brigitte transformed the club from a bush polo club to an international level polo complex. He was able to attract the highest rated players in the country with many moving to the area.

It was not unusual for local low goal club players to be summoned to have a midweek club practice and end up in a 15-goal team with some of the world's best players who were in town trying horses for an upcoming high goal tournament. Pat was inclusive, supportive, and guided many players to become better players and professionals.

He will be sadly missed by all"



David Head

"Paddy MacGinley was one of the quickest and most tenacious competitors on the polo field for so many years, playing throughout NSW, Qld, Vic and SA at the top of his game in the 70's and 80's. Always such a smooth hitter of the ball, so deceptive when he would accelerate to escape when you thought you had him marked, and in return when you thought you had the ball clear you would suddenly find Pat marking you so solidly. And always with a smile.

I remember first seeing Pat as the pivot of the Bungendore club with John Kilmartin, then establishing Jemalong with John Kahlbetzer, not only leading their success in tournaments, but also kicking off their amazing pony breeding program.

Playing as #2 with brother Jim at #3 they were virtually unbeatable in Qld and Australian representative teams with total confidence and understanding in their anticipation of each other.

And off the field both would be the most laid-back, easy-going mates you'd ever find. Pat and Jim would stay with us during the Easter International weeks played at Warwick Farm and while everyone else was out stick and balling or schooling they'd be having that extra cuppa tea and chin wag.

I'll never forget Pat's uncanny ability to so easily hit 60 yard penalties, and he told me the secret was that you don't have to hit them any further than 61 yards, you just needed to lob the ball over the defending players and just over the goal-line, and it works!"



"Richard Cowan, Jim Macginley, Pat Macginley, John Kilmartin"



"Pat with Diana, Princess of Wales"



"Jim and Pat MacGinley with Jim Gunn and Antony Baillieu, playing for Australia"



Gus and Georgie Campbell

So many of us, you gave a start. A job that set us on a path. A foundation of how to live a life, like your ability to pick the ponies to play, that no-one else would or could & change the course of their life for the better.

So too, countless people's lives were enriched by your generosity, filled with advice, knowledge & humour.

Dick Lester

Australian polo has lost a stalwart supporter as a result of the passing of Pat McGinley.

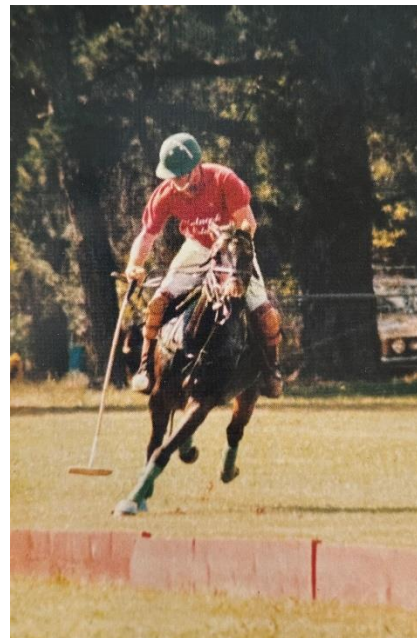
I became to know Pat some ten years ago. He had noticed my grandson, James Lester, an aspiring young Australian polo player. Pat's advice and encouragement was both much appreciated and taken seriously by James, and also me as James relative and supporter.

Over the intervening 10, or so years, Pat's interest, and encouragement, sometimes critical but always honest and forthright and never wavering, was accepted by James to his benefit. I am sure that there were many young Australian players who benefitted from Pat's encouragement over the years.

We had many meetings on the sidelines and more latterly as Pat's health deteriorated by telephone. Always enjoyable.

Pat's lifelong interest and involvement in Australian polo will be sorely missed.

R I P Pat McGinley.



Niall Coburn

Pat MacGinley was a statesman for polo and an inspiration to young players, who represented Australia and played all around the world. He was also a great horseman, who that in his later years used his talent, knowledge and expertise to help horses with problems or recover from injuries.

I first meet him at Shine Coast Polo club 15 years ago, where he assisted at the polo clinic and was very friendly and helpful to new players. Personally, he gave his time and came to the new Noosa Country Polo Club and helped my wife and I to place the polo field in the best position on our property using his wealth of polo knowledge and told me that "small fields are the best because you have more fun and a better chance at getting the ball". I thank Pat for his polo expertise, gentlemanly manner, and thoughtfulness both on and off the field.

May he rest in Peace.



"Pat a true horseman"



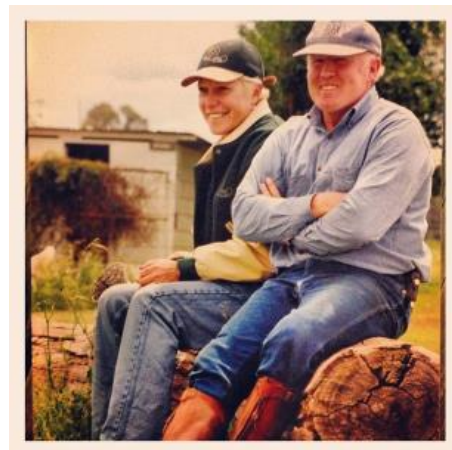
"Pat playing for Jemalong"



"Pat and Jim together in the early 90's"



"Pat riding down the main street of Forbes"



"Brigitte and Pat"

