2016 CAQ AGM PRESIDENT’S REPORT by Mark C Stokes

2016 has been a very good year for Chess in Queensland, a year full of highlight after highlight!

For me, the biggest highlight of the year was watching our own homegrown Grandmaster, David Smerdon, draw with World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen in the Chess Olympiad, followed closely by the news that Moulthun Ly gained his third and final GM Norm just a few days before the Olympiad started. In the Olympiad it was also great to see Heather Richards and Alex Jule playing so well for Australia too!

Our jampacked CAQ Calendar is the envy of many other states and a look at our new CAQ Website, so cleverly designed by Heather, shows that many successful events were once again conducted, including Gardiner Chess’ U1750 Tin Cup in February with 75 players, The Mackay Open on Feb 20 and 21 with 24 players, QWCL’s April Open at Rothwell with 38 players, The Qld Open in Toowoomba with 61 players at the very end of April (even though a FIDE event in Brisbane at the same time attracted 60 players), The Peninsula Open run by Redcliffe Chess Club in the middle of May with 45 players, The inaugural Wilde WeekEnder organized by Alex Stahnke with 40 players, QWCL’s second tournament, The Wendy Terry Memorial on June 11 and June 12 with 36 players, The amazing Three Tournaments in One Gold Coast Open organized by Gardiner Chess on June 24, 25 and 26 that attracted a total of 146 players, The Qld Junior Chess Championships at Nudgee College in Brisbane with a total of 128 players between June 28 and July 1 that kept both Matt Gilpin and Martin Harmon very busy, a well contested Qld Veteran’s event on July 16 and 17 with over 50 year olds -featuring lots of friendly banter, The U1700 Qld Reserves at Nudgee with 40 players won by Aaron Fahey, who took up his right to enter The 2016 Qld Chess Championships, a most well organized and welcoming Townsville Open in the heart of the city and directly opposite The Cowboys Club with 26 keen chess players, another very successful Bundaberg Open on Aug 27 and Aug 28 with a record entry of 43 players, The amazing Nell Van de Graaff Classic on the Gold Coast at the very start of the September School holidays organized by Gardiner Chess that attracted 84 players, Redcliffe Chess Club’s Leo Wilkinson Memorial at Rothwell the following weekend to the NVDG with 52 players, The FIDE rated Qld Chess Championship held from Thursday night September 29 to Monday afternoon October 3 at Helensvale that was so ably directed by Michael D’Arcy with 20 strong players including 3 International Masters and 6 players rated over 2000 ACF and 18 players rated over 1700 ACF, a 16 player Qld Womens and Girls Chess Championship run by the QWCL on October 8 and 9 which was played in wonderful spirit by each and every player, an amazing Inter Schools Finals that filled Morris Hall at Churchie on October 15 and October 16 organized by Gardiner chess so very, very well and The Gap Club’s special 2 Friday nights in a row event on October 21 and October 28 that was well attended by 39 players and was indeed a fitting memorial to Marcus Porter.

You can see why Qld is the envy of many other States and we still have The Blitz today and the fun Teams of 6 Chess Day at St Joseph’s Bracken Ridge next Saturday to play in as well in 2016. It has been a big year.

We also have the two very, very big events to run in January 2017, The Australian Open and Australian Under 1600 Chess Championships from January 2 to January 12 and The Australian Junior Chess Championships from January 14 to January 22, both at Churchie. Andrew FitzPatrick has been doing lots of the work associated with the organization of both these events and I would really like to thank him for all his incredible hard work so far. I would also like to acknowledge the incredible financial support given to the CAQ by BBC Painting this year and I would like to publically thank CAQ Member John Buciu for organizing this very generous support for us. If you need a painting job done in the future make sure you google BBC Painting first.

To the whole CAQ Council of 2016, I say a heartfelt thank-you. You have all helped out in so many ways and I am proud to be President of this hard working CAQ COUNCIL. We will all miss the work of Ratings Officer Matt Gilpin in 2017 and we thank him for doing this important job in 2016. Matt will be happy to help show the next Ratings Officer the tricks of the trade.

Thank-you all once again, thank you Andrew for all you do as Vice President and Tournament Officer and for travelling the length and breadth of Queensland running all those inter-school chess tournaments, thank you Michael for all you do as Secretary, Junior Chess Co-Ordinator and Publicity Officer – your newsletters are so good to read, thank you Gail for being our Membership Secretary for the last 21 years and our CAQ Grand Prix points updater, I wish you were the ACF Grand Prix points updater too, thank-you Jim Rogers for being kind enough to come back and take on the Treasury job once again after you thought you had successfully escaped, thank you Allan for all you do promoting Regional Chess and for a wonderful Bundaberg Open each year, thank you Heather for your hours and hours of work on our new CAQ Website, thank you ALL for ALL you have done in 2016! Let’s hope 2017 can be even better! If it is, it will be a fantastic year.

Regards Mark C Stokes CAQ INC President 0431419136

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PS

What about the performance of all 4 Queensland Team’s in the National Schools Finals in Perth, with all 4 Teams coming home with medals?

* Somerset’s Open Primary Team of Oliver Yang, Eason Wang, Jason Li and Charlie Liu came home with the National Title! They scored a total of 16.5 points from 5 matches, 2.5 points more than the runner up! Charlie Liu won the Board 4 Prize as well, scoring 5/5!
* Somerset’s Primary Girls Team of Lyanna Chan, Jennifer Yeung, Melody Yang and Sophie Ahern came second! They won 4 of their 5 matches
* In the Secondary Open, Brisbane Grammar’s Team of Tom Slater-Jones, Tony Zhong, Thomas Yang and James Franco took out 3rd place.
* In the Secondary Girls’, Somerset College’s Team of Elizabeth Kay,

Anneliese McConnell, Mayuri Yamaguchi and Talia Varcoe came =2nd!