**2019 CAQ AGM PRESIDENT'S REPORT Sunday December 8.**

 2019 has been another successful year in so many ways for Chess in Queensland. We have once again led Australia in the number of first class weekenders we have run, with 21 different tournament results currently up on the CAQ Website. We have run a fantastic Queensland Chess Championship and U1600 ACF Queensland Chess Championship, ( thank-you Hughston ), a wonderful Nell Van De Graaff Classic on the Gold Coast with 110 players, ( thank-you Andrew and Shaun and all at Gardiner Chess ), an impressive Leo Wilkinson Memorial with 78 players, the three tournaments in one Gold Coast Open Premier, Major and Minor with a total of 176 players! , ( another Gardiner Chess masterpiece ), a Toowoomba Open, ( thank-you Zach Pomerenke ), a well attended QWCL organized Queensland Veterans Chess Championship, two Bundaberg Weekenders, ( thank-you Martin Carter and Phil Mulholland and committee ), a Cairns Open,( thank-you Andrew ), two QWCL Weekenders, ( thank-you Gail Young ! ), a 54th consecutive Peninsula Open, a Queensland Reserves/Tin Cup for U1750 players, ( Cheers Gardiner Chess once again ), a QWCL organized Queensland Womens and Girls, ( thank-you Gail! ), the U8, U10, U12 and U14 -U18 Queensland Junior Championship, ( thank-you Andrew and Shaun and Gardiner Chess yet again ) and a top class FIDE Open in January, ( thank-you again Gail ), to name but a few of the events on the jam packed 2019 chess calendar. Queensland is indeed the envy of every other State in Australia yet again when it comes to the number of weekenders run and we will once again dominate the prize giving ceremony at perhaps the last ever Australian Chess Federation Grand Prix prize giving ceremony in January in Sydney.

We have seen yet another record breaking year take place in Inter School Chess and we have seen a most impressive weekend of Primary Open, Primary Girls, Secondary Open and Secondary Girls Finals, where no less than 16 boards were sent out live to the world! I have never before seen so many happy parents at the one chess weekend, with a wonderful canteen open for the whole event. ( Thank you Alex Wohl ). David Esmonde from Aunix deserves our heartfelt thanks for setting up the live telecasts of the majority of these events in 2019 and just about everyone in Queensland now knows to go to [https://livechess.aunz.org](https://livechess.aunz.org/) to see the games. Once again Queensland leads the way in Australia in the telecasting of live chess events!

And what about Anglican Church Grammar School, ( Churchie ), winning The Australian Secondary Open Final in Canberra on Saturday November 30 and Sunday December 1! Wow! Somerset College did well in the Primary Open too, finishing equal second and both our Primary Girls and Secondary Girls Teams took out fourth place. We are proud of all !

Besides David Esmonde from Aunix, Queensland Chess has another great sponsor to acknowledge and thank – John Buciu from BBC Painting. John sponsored a number of our events with cash grants and we thank him and BBC Painting for so generously helping Queensland Chess grow. If you need your house painted inside or out, give BBC Painting a call!

We should also mention our first ever Q Jets – with 24 lucky and talented Queensland Juniors coached in three groups of 8 by no less than 3 Grandmasters , Ian Rogers, Darryl Johannsen and Moulthun Ly, over 3 consecutive days! No wonder they are taking rating points off our more senior players at just about every tournament now! Shaun Curtis deserves a big pat on the back for getting Q Jets up and running in 2019 and I, for one, hope it becomes an annual fixture in our CAQ Calendar of events.

All this does not happen by osmosis – we have so many dedicated people helping Queensland Chess grow, ( CAQ Membership is now approaching 800! ) and many of them are here today at this CAQ AGM. I am proud to be the President of the out going Council but I am also very pleased that many plan to continue on in 2020.

One not returning is Scott Dullaway. Scott has served for four years in a row now on the CAQ Council and for the last two years has been Minutes Secretary. This can be a time consuming task, and we thank him for this. The ACF could learn a thing or two from Scott. Heather Richards has also helped the CAQ in recent years with her professional upgrade of our CAQ Website, when she is not representing Australia at Women's Olympiads on board one. Thank-you Heather! Charith has also informed me that he is unable to continue on as Newsletter Editor in 2020, so we will need a new Newsletter Editor in 2020.

To our returning CAQ Councillors, thank-you for putting your hand up once again to help promote the game of chess in Queensland.

2019 has been big, but 2020 looks even bigger! And what a way to kick it off – with Gardiner Chess organizing and running The Southport School 2020 Australian Juniors from Saturday January 18 to Sunday January 26 on behalf of the CAQ. As if this is not enough, Andrew FitzPatrick has once again taken on the difficult job of co-ordinating all the important chess events planned in Queensland in 2020 into one comprehensive calendar and he has tried his level best to keep everyone happy. Thanks Andrew for taking on this complex task once again! You must be very good at solving 5000 piece jigsaw puzzles!

I would like to thank all on the out going CAQ Council for the great help you have given me personally when I needed it in 2019 and I trust you will do the same again - with a smile on your face - in 2020.

I now move that this 2019 CAQ President's Report be accepted.

SIGNED Mark C Stokes CAQ Inc President of 2019.