



APPA Chair Update | October 2026

Dear Members,

It's hard to believe another quarter has passed, and there has certainly been no shortage of activity across Australian pool!

We've seen Australians achieving success on the international stage, a busy calendar of national and State events, growing interest in our sport, and preparations for what promises to be an enormous November for cue sports in Australia.

There's also been plenty happening behind the scenes, with work continuing on player opportunities, communications, governance and planning for 2027.

Commonwealth Success – India

What a fantastic week for Australian cue sports at the Commonwealth Cue Sports Championships in Ahmedabad, India!

Australia came home with four medals across three disciplines, including a Commonwealth gold medal.

Congratulations to our medallists:

-  Meng-Hsia "Bean" Hung – Gold, Women's 10-Ball
-  Kolbe Poole – Bronze, Women's Blackball
-  Julie Watson – Bronze, Women's English Billiards
-  Michael Pearson – Bronze, Men's English Billiards

A particularly special moment for me was watching Bean win the Women's 10-Ball final 7–4 and hearing the Australian national anthem played at the medal ceremony.

It was also wonderful to see Australian athletes from different cue sports disciplines supporting one another, both on and off the table.

Congratulations to all our Australian representatives, and thank you to everyone who supported the team from home.

Australians on the World Stage

It's been another busy quarter for Australians competing internationally, with representation across multiple disciplines and major world championships.

Our Australian representatives have included:

- India – WPA Heyball World Championships, Pune: Lyndall Vine, Lilly Meldrum, Jessica Woods, Kylie Bellinger, Leanne Haas, Elyce Harris, Robby Foldvari, Paull Clack and Cale Barrett.
- Vietnam – Men's WPA 10-Ball World Championship: James Georgiadis, Ced Gonzales and Johnny Huynh.
- Bali – Women's WPA 9-Ball World Championship: Lilly Meldrum, Kenny Chandra, Sarah Husband and Meng-Hsia "Bean" Hung.
- Wisconsin, USA – Women's WPA 8-Ball World Championship: Lilly Meldrum and Meng-Hsia Hung.
- China – China Open 9-Ball: Lilly Meldrum and Meng-Hsia Hung.

It's encouraging to see so many Australians testing themselves against the world's best across multiple disciplines.

Congratulations to everyone who has represented Australia. We'll continue sharing individual performances and results through APPA's social media channels.

Australian Championships & State Events

It's been another busy quarter on the domestic calendar, with Australian Championships and State events continuing across multiple disciplines.

Congratulations to our recent champions:

- Australian 9-Ball Championship – Adelaide: Michael Cacciola defeated Justin Sajich 13–11.
- Australian Open 8-Ball – Sydney: Vinnie Calabrese defeated Andy Nguyen.
- Ladies 9-Ball and 10-Ball Double Header – Sydney: Kate Harrison and Kenny Chandra claimed the respective titles.
- Queensland Open 8-Ball: Nicholas "Nick" Pilat defeated Marc Angelo Perez 9–5.
- Queensland Open Heyball: Lilly Meldrum defeated Seb Clark-Chen 7–4.
- Queensland Open 10-Ball: Seb Clark-Chen defeated Louie Gandia.
- ACT Open Heyball – Canberra: John Bowkett defeated Charles Huang.

Our planned Junior Championships have been postponed, with revised arrangements to be communicated once confirmed.

Thank you to our host venues, tournament directors, referees and volunteers who continue to make these events possible.

Growing Our Sport & Reaching New Audiences

Increasing the visibility of Australian players and their achievements remains an important focus for APPA.

Our Facebook content reached more than 374,000 views over a recent 28-day period, up 137%, alongside increasing engagement with our events, player achievements and international opportunities.

We've also seen Australian cue sports reach audiences beyond our traditional community through mainstream media coverage.

We'd love members to help spread the word by liking, sharing and engaging with our content. Every share helps showcase our players and introduce Australian pool to new audiences.

And if you've got ideas about how we can reach further, particularly beyond my old lady Facebook posts and into other platforms, creative content or collaborations, I'd love to hear them!

Oceania – Growing Our Region & Hosting Two Major Events

It has been a significant quarter for the Oceania Pool-Billiard Association (OPBA).

At the September AGM, Raymond Reddy from Fiji was elected President for a two-year term. With Fiji joining Oceania as our newest Full Member, there's a real opportunity to grow participation across the Pacific, welcome new member nations and create more opportunities for players throughout the region.

I remain on the OPBA Board and continue to be actively involved in regional initiatives.

A major focus right now is the delivery of two significant Oceania events in Australia this November.

Both the Oceania 10-Ball Open and the Oceania Heyball Open are OPBA events, with APPA undertaking the hosting and event delivery on behalf of Oceania.

These aren't simply Australian tournaments attracting overseas players. They are Oceania events designed to strengthen regional competition, welcome international athletes and create more opportunities for players across our member nations.

Oceania 10-Ball Open – Sydney

11–14 November | Club 9

This WPA-sanctioned Oceania ranking event offers AUD \$15,000 in guaranteed prize money, with Men's and Women's competitions.

Players from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Mongolia, Mauritius, the United Kingdom, Pakistan and the Netherlands are already confirmed.

We've capped the Men's field at 64 players, allowing longer races to 8, with a \$135 entry fee and \$4,000 for the Men's champion.

Oceania Heyball Open – Gold Coast

16–20 November | Gold Coast Sports & Leisure Centre

The Oceania Heyball Open is shaping up to be one of the largest international cue sports events hosted in Australia this year, and another major OPBA event being delivered by APPA on behalf of Oceania.

The championship will feature 64 men and 64 women, bringing together an international field of athletes from around the world, alongside representatives from across Oceania, including Australia.

With 128 athletes, 16 JOY Heyball tables and USD \$116,000 in prize money, including USD \$10,000 for each champion, this is a significant event for our region and an exciting opportunity to showcase international Heyball competition on Australian soil.

For Australian players, APPA has been coordinating allocations through our Expression of Interest and selection processes, providing opportunities for athletes to enter the main draw or compete for the remaining places through the Australian qualifier on Monday 16 November.

The event also coincides with the opening of the Gold Coast Cue Sports Carnival, bringing multiple cue sports disciplines together at the Gold Coast Sports & Leisure Centre. It's a fantastic opportunity for players and spectators to experience world-class Heyball alongside other national championships, all at the one venue.

There's an enormous amount of work happening behind the scenes to bring this event together, and we're looking forward to welcoming athletes from across Oceania and around the world to the Gold Coast.

Australian Open 10-Ball – Canberra

7–8 November

Before our two Oceania events get underway, we'll be in Canberra for the Australian Open 10-Ball Championship.

Entries are open, and we're looking forward to another strong national event.

Three major events, three cities and a fantastic opportunity to compete as we make our way up Australia's east coast!

If you haven't already entered Canberra or Sydney, now is the time to secure your place.

Volunteers – Many Hands Make Light Work

One thing I think is important to highlight is that APPA is an entirely volunteer-run organisation.

Our work goes well beyond delivering Australian Championships. Maintaining our national federation, our Oceania relationships and our connection with the World Pool Association creates the pathways that enable Australians to access international events, national allocations and opportunities to compete on the world stage.

From memberships and rankings to selections, athlete nominations, communications and event delivery, there's a considerable amount of work happening behind the scenes.

And as APPA continues to grow, so does the work involved.

Many hands make light work, and we'd love more members to get involved.

Volunteering doesn't necessarily mean joining the Board or taking on an ongoing commitment. Perhaps you'd like to help deliver an event in your city, at your local venue or within a particular discipline. Maybe you have skills in communications, technology, administration or event management. Or perhaps you're available to lend a hand at the Oceania Heyball Open on the Gold Coast.

There are plenty of ways to contribute, whether it's for one event, a particular project or something more ongoing.

We don't need a few people doing everything. We need more people doing a little.

If you'd like to help in any capacity, please get in touch.



2026 APPA Annual General Meeting

Our 2026 APPA AGM will be held online via Microsoft Teams on:

- Sunday 29 November 2026
- 7:00 pm AEDT (6:00 pm AEST)

Please note: This clarifies the original AGM invitation, which incorrectly stated 7:00 pm AEST. The correct meeting time is 7:00 pm AEDT (Sydney/Melbourne time).

Invitations have already been emailed to all members. The agenda includes Chair and Treasurer reports, Board appointments, proposed revisions to our Constitution, strategic priorities for 2027 and an opportunity for member questions.

We currently have Board vacancies and welcome interest from members who would like to contribute to APPA's future direction.

Please register by Sunday 15 November. Members can also submit questions ahead of the meeting.

View the AGM agenda, supporting documents and register here:

<https://www.aupoolplayers.org/appa-agm-2026>

Looking Ahead

Beyond November's major events, planning is already underway for 2027, including national events, junior opportunities and international pathways.

Please keep an eye on the APPA website, Tournament Calendar and social media channels for upcoming events, registration details and Expressions of Interest.

Thank you to everyone who has played, volunteered, officiated, promoted, hosted or supported an event during another busy quarter.

There is a lot happening in Australian pool, and plenty more still to come.

If you see me at an event, please don't hesitate to come and say hello.

Leanne Haas



Chair | Australian Pool Players Association