

The Ballarat Checkmate Chronicle



**Attention!
We have a
superstar
among us!**
Om O'Carroll, a
15-year-old

junior from the Ballarat Chess Club, is making waves in the chess world. Check out her round 5 game against Aliana Vincent.

Not only is Om a talented player, but she is also coaching our very own Pawn Division in the Ballarat Junior Chess Club. And guess what? She's a national champion! Om recently won the U/16 Girls Australian Championship and finished equal 3rd in the U/18 Girls Australian Championship.

But that's not all. Om also achieved a fantastic result at the Women's Oceania Zonal, earning herself conditional Master Titles. And get this: she defeated a WFM Kieren Lyons in round 3 and drew with a WFM Kathryn Hardegen in round 6.

Despite her impressive achievements, Om is quiet and modest, proving the age-old adage that you should never judge a book by its cover. She's a shining example of what hard work, dedication, and passion can achieve.

So, if you're looking for inspiration to take your chess game to the next level, look no further than Om O'Carroll. And who knows? Maybe one day, we'll be reading about your incredible achievements in the chess world.

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Paul Morphy: The Chess Prodigy Who Took the World by Storm



Do you love playing chess? If so, you might be interested in learning about one of the greatest

chess players of all time - Paul Morphy.

Paul Morphy was born in New Orleans in 1837, and he showed a talent for chess from a very young age. In fact, he was so good that by the time he was just 10 years old, he was already beating grown-ups at the game!

As he got older, Morphy's skills only continued to improve. He became known as a chess prodigy, which means someone who is exceptionally talented at something from a very young age. In 1857, when Morphy was 20 years old, he traveled to Europe to compete in chess tournaments against some of the best players in the world.

And guess what? He won almost every game he played!

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Morphy's style of play was unique and aggressive. He liked to take risks and make daring moves that his opponents didn't expect. This often threw them off their game and gave Morphy the advantage he needed to win.

But Morphy wasn't just a great chess player - he was also a great sportsman. He always treated his opponents with respect and never gloated when he won. In fact, he once famously said, "I never play a game without feeling that I am playing for my own satisfaction, and for the love of the game and art."

Morphy's success in Europe made him a celebrity back home in America. People would stop him on the street and ask for his autograph! But despite all the attention, Morphy remained humble and focused on what he loved most - playing chess.

Sadly, Morphy's chess career was relatively short. After a few years of competing at the highest level, he decided to retire from the game and focus on his law career. But even though he stopped playing chess, his legacy lived on.

Today, many chess players still study Morphy's games and admire his unique style of play. He is remembered as one of the greatest chess players of all time, and his passion for the game continues to inspire new generations of players.

So the next time you sit down to play chess, remember the incredible story

of Paul Morphy - the chess prodigy who took the world by storm!

Morphy's Immortal "Opera Game"

The "Immortal Game" is one of the most famous chess games in history, and it was played by Paul Morphy in 1858 when he was just 21 years old.



Morphy was playing against two opponents, the German aristocrats the Duke of Brunswick and Count Isouard, during a casual game in Paris.

In the game, Morphy played the white pieces and opened with the e4 pawn, which is a very common move in chess. However, he quickly began to make some very daring and unconventional moves, such as sacrificing his knight to gain control of the board.

As the game progressed, Morphy's opponents became increasingly bewildered by his moves, and they struggled to find ways to defend themselves. Morphy continued to make bold sacrifices, and eventually he managed to set up a checkmate in just 23 moves!

The "Immortal Game" became famous not just for the incredible way that Morphy played, but also for the fact that it showcased his unique and aggressive style of play. It is often cited as an example of the beauty and artistry that can be found in chess.

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The Ballarat Junior Chess Club is in full swing, and the students are bringing their A-game to the Junior Chess League every Thursday night.

With seven coaches on hand to guide and encourage, students of all skill levels are invited to participate in this friendly and welcoming tournament. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned player, you'll find a supportive community here that will help you hone your skills and take your game to the next level.

After four rounds, some talented players are emerging as front runners in each division. Liam and Armaan are showing great potential in the beginner division, with 3.5 points each. In the pawn division, Shane is making impressive strides with 3 points. Shane showed great strategy to beat his knight division opponent while Gemma is close behind with 2 points.

The knight division is heating up, with Johan pulling off some impressive wins to earn a perfect score of 4 points. In Round 4 Johan wowed the crowd with an impressive win against his opponent in the rook division, after already triumphing against his opponent in the bishop division in round 3. Callum and Declan are also

showing great promise, with 3 points each leading the knight division. Impressively Callum, to keep pace made some exciting moves to win against his bishop division rival.

In the bishop division, Jacob and Ricky are neck-and-neck with 3 points each.

Over in the rook division, Lucas Y is leading the pack with 3 points. Zachariah and Rey are following closely behind with 2 points each.

In the queen division, Kanishk is proving to be a formidable opponent with a perfect score of 4 points, with Patrick close behind with 3 points.

But it's not just about the scores - the Junior Chess League is a place where students can learn, grow, and make meaningful connections with other players.

The Ballarat Junior Chess Club is a fantastic opportunity for anyone who loves chess and wants to improve their game. The Junior Chess League is just one part of this welcoming community, where students can connect with other players and discover their passion for this fascinating game. Come join us and see what you can achieve - the possibilities are endless!

If you want to get involved let Scott know by 6pm you want to play,

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Current BJCC League Standings

After 4 Rounds

Beginner

1.0 Tiya, Lucas W, William

3.5 Liam, Amaan

0.5 Antony

3.0 Davin

2.0 Mariana

Bishop

1.5 Yousef, Thomas, Christiana,
Alexander

3.0 Jacob, Ricky

1.0 Alan D, Thomas

2.5 Ruby, Joshua D, James Inglis

2.0 Venuk

Pawn

1.5 Joshua M

3.0 Shane

0.5 Maddy

2.0 Gemma

0.0 Riley

1.5 Christian, Angela

Rook

1.0 Adrian

3.0 Lucas Y

0.5 Aiden, Emily

2.0 Zachariah, Rey

Knight

1.0 Lashen, Jimmy

4.0 Johan

0.0 Zia

3.0 Callum, Declan

Queen

2.5 Anna, Akain

4.0 Kanishk

2.0 Vir, Xiatung

3.0 Patrick

1.5 Nirvani

2.0 Maggie

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Upcoming Events

5th March - 11am – Sunday Rapid 7 Round Swiss

lichess.org

Held on lichess server with time controls of 10 minutes plus 5 seconds per move. 7 Rounds or less depending on the number of entries.

5th March – 6:30pm – Chess4Fun – Blitz 9 Round Swiss

Time controls of 6 minutes plus 1 second per move

A fun tournament played on the Tornello Chess Server. It is Organised by a Melbourne junior Michael Ooi and his Father Tim. This event began during the COVID and is ongoing.

11th – 13th of March – 57th Ballarat Begonia Open Chess Tournament

Ballarat Tech School, Federation University

19th March – 6:30pm – Chess4Fun – Blitz 9 Round Swiss

Time controls of 6 minutes plus 1 second per move

A fun tournament played on the Tornello Chess Server. It is Organised by a Melbourne junior Michael Ooi and his Father Tim. This event began during the COVID and is ongoing.

26th March - 11am – Sunday Rapid 7 Round Swiss

lichess.com

Time controls of 10 minutes plus 5 seconds per move. 7 Rounds or less depending on the number of entries.

28th March – 2023 Kryal Castle Chess Shield 2023 - Secondary

29th March – 2023 Kryal Castle Chess Shield 2023 - Primary

30th March – 7pm Start - Time Handicap Tournament Rounds 1 – 3

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Game times to be advised based on difference in ratings with total game time of 1 hour. **Rounds 4 to 6 held the following week.**

1st of April – Ballarat Chess Club Daily Championship

Chess.com

Correspondence Tournament held on chess.com. Moves are played at a rate of 5 days per move. More Details can be found on the club's chess.com page.

For more details on how to get involved in any of these events please email Scott at ballaratchess@gmail.com