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# Chess club calls

By **LARISSA KUZEFF**

CHECKMATE is a phrase that is heard often at the Albury Chess Club as they ramp up to take on competition from across the state later in the month.

Over the next few weeks they are set to play against Wagga Wagga Chess Club, Canberra Chess Club, and inmates at Junee Correction Centre.

The club, which dates back to the 1940s, is a small group of members who have a strong passion for the game.

Albury Chess Club president Greg Darcy has been an on and off member since the '80s.

He believes the benefits of being part of such a club and playing an opponent across a board is more rewarding than playing against a computer at home.

"Playing someone across the board is a lot more friendlier, more enjoyable," Mr Darcy said.

"If you play against the computer the win isn't necessarily a win because they may have hung up and they could have been cheating for all you know.

"I find the best is when you find someone who can actually play chess across the board with you at the level that you can play or above."



**Albury Chess Club members Greg Darcy and Martin Stevens 134125**  
Picture: **LARISSA KUZEFF**

There is a diverse demographic of chess competitors which even extend to those behind bars.

Albury Chess Club is set to travel to the inmates at Junee Correctional Centre in Wagga Wagga to play for a trophy on 15 February.

Albury Chess Club member Martin Stevens said playing against inmates taught them valuable skills.

"It's good for the inmates to have some form of outside contact where they are given opportunity and skills to learn the big lesson that if you make a mis-

take in either life or in chess, you can learn from your mistakes and not to repeat them," Mr Stevens said.

"It's very good for them to develop social qualities rather than antisocial behaviour.

"It's therapeutic for them."

The club is always looking for new chess enthusiasts to join and take part in their annual competition which goes on for a couple of months.

"We have a lot of floating interest," Mr Darcy said.

"It's as social as it is self-rewarding and you have fun."