

TRANS TASMAN AC TEST SERIES

Wynnum CC, Brisbane, 22-28th April, 2018

Hot on the heels of the Australian AC Open and Eire Cup, the three test series against New Zealand was held in mostly dry and warm weather at the four lawn venue at Wynnum in Brisbane. Despite Wynnum CC being almost exclusively GC players the club members rallied for the series and were truly excellent hosts. Hoop setters were out before dawn and active after the completion of every game, a referee was available for each lawn, kitchen ladies kept us fed and watered in great style and invisible elves persistently tidied our clubhouse mess and swept the floor.

We players had absolutely nothing to do except dump our bags and play ... what a joy!

The TT tests are played for the Camden Park Trophy. The series is held every two years and is now played alternately as Association and Golf croquet. Each test is played over two days and totals twelve matches, day 1 being 4 best-of-three mixed doubles and day 2 comprising eight same-sex singles matches. Cutting to the chase, Australia won the series 3 tests to nil: 9 – 3, 7 – 5 and 7 – 4 (with 1 match rendered a dead rubber and abandoned at 1 all in fading light, the 3rd game unplayed).

After a resounding victory in the first test, the NZ players rallied for the second test winning the first day of doubles 3 – 1. Australia needed to win 6 of 8 singles matches to claim a win in the second test and victory in the series making day 4 enormously tight and exciting. The last light of the day saw Greg Fletcher (captain of Australia) beat Greg Bryant (captain of New Zealand) in a thrilling end.

The Australian men's singles results were nothing short of spectacular. As Robert Fletcher was forced to withdraw (business eats dreadfully into croquet time) the men were Greg Fletcher (captain), Malcolm Fletcher, Stephen



THE
TROPHY

Forster and 19 year old reserve, Edward Wilson. The Australian men won all singles matches in each test with Wilson never dropping even a single game.

The women playing for Australia were an all NSW crew; Claire Bassett, Rosemary Landrebe, Alison Sharpe and Alix Verge. Overall we ladies won 2 of 4 matches in each test (although your correspondent was not required to play the deciding game of her last match allowing her the dubious claim of being the only undefeated woman of the team!)

The mixed doubles of each Test was the highlight of the event for me. Whereas our women's team world rankings were 76, 107, 130 and 109 the men's rankings were #6, 7, 10 and 20. The gap of 70+ ranking places marks a chasm not only in technical ability but in approach to the game.

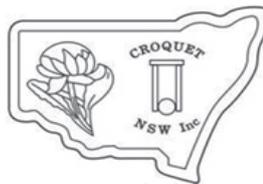


Captain,
Greg
Fletcher,
receives
trophy from
Mike Cohn
(ACA Board
member)

(contd on
back page)



From the Chairman of the Board



From the Editor

June already!! Where have the last 6 months gone? One huge plus is the weather has changed enough to make playing our great game enjoyable again.

On behalf of the Board and all croquet NSW members I wish to extend a huge **congratulations** to both **Alison Sharpe and David Hanbidge** (Killara and Nowra respectively) for their great win in the 2018 Australian GC National Doubles Championship held recently at Cairnlea, Vic, and also to **Alison** for becoming only the second woman to win the Australian GC National Singles Championship. The first woman to win the event back in 2000 was Kath Coull (originally from Sutherland CC). **GO NSW!!!!**

In April I made the beautiful trek up to the Northern Rivers region to have a meeting with the local Clubs. What a great day with lots of information being given and received. This was followed by games and lots of fellowship. Whilst on my trek I called in at both Port Macquarie and Lismore to play some games and have a chat and also made a quick visit to Sawtell to check out their new third lawn. The 5 days were very enjoyable and productive and I must thank Richard Hughes (Ballina) for organising the meeting – thanks Richard.

In September (only 3 months away) the 2018 Australian GC Men's and Women's Singles Championships are being held in the Hunter region. The organisation of these events and also the Inter State Shield (ISS) is well under way with a flier being prepared and distributed shortly. If you have a GC handicap of 8 or better you should consider entering either of the singles events. It is a great opportunity to play, watch and learn from some of the best players in Australia.

Keep the participation levels up and I look forward to seeing you on the lawns soon.

Happy Hooping!

Brenda Wild

Thank you to the contributing clubs for this issue: Ballina, Blue Mountains, Cammeray, Canberra, Cheltenham, Coogee, Cowra, Mosman, Myall Park, Nowra, Taree and Wagga Wagga. There is another contribution for Poet's Corner.

Among the various competitions for which there are reports, one is for The Eire Cup and this highlights the good efforts of NSW, finishing an impressive third in this demanding contest. Congratulations to Claire Bassett who won the Women's Open prior to the start of the Eire Cup games. The AC team members continued their winning form with success in the prestigious Trans Tasman Event played in April. Well done to all concerned for bringing home this Trophy!

Various competitions put on by CNSW have been well reported. GC Pennants are in the final stages as this Newsletter goes to press and we look forward to a good report on this state-wide competition in the next issue. There is a diary note for the upcoming Australian GC Championships and the interstate Shield that follows the GC Championship. Also included are dates for Junior Croquet days.

David Stanton has supplied an interesting crossword to test your brain n power—see how long it takes you to complete!

Please remember to send in news of your club — we are all interested!

Meantime, keep enjoying the game and may you make many hoops!

Wendy Fothergill

**Closing date for next issue:
Wednesday 25 July**

Supported by the



NEWS FROM MYALL PARK

Myall Park Croquet Club started out with humble beginnings. It was formed by 7 dedicated ladies in 1988, Gwen Pye, Gwen Wiseman, Joan Woods, Audrey Woods, Mary Collins, Ruth Coxon and Eileen Webb, who bought the first rules and equipment to play. Our original hoops were made by Alan Bevan and the mallets by Ted Allen which are still in use.

The first games were played on the cricket/football field in Witt Street Tea Gardens until pressure by the ladies was put onto Great Lakes Council to obtain land at the Myall Park Sports Fields.

Games commenced at the oval in April 1991, a new storage shed for the equipment was built by the Lions Club in November 1991, The Lions club members also dug the trenches for the irrigation and sprinkler system which was installed for approximately \$3000. Bryn Carr did the electrical wiring and controls. Tea Gardens Hawks Nest Progress Association and RSL Sub Branch donated \$1500 towards materials.

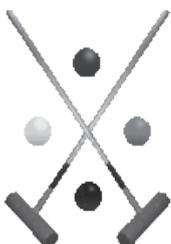
Hawks Nest Golf Club then prepared the two lawns to be ready for play in 1992. In February 1992 the club changed its name from Hawks Nest Tea Gardens Croquet Club to Myall Park Croquet Club.

Fundraising efforts were made by enthusiastic club members for fencing and a clubhouse with lots of help from Great Lakes Council. With donations from Hawks Nest Progress Association and Hawks Nest Caravan Park the fencing was erected by Great Lakes Council in 1994. In 1996 we were granted permission from Great lakes Council to build a gazebo affording much needed shade in the hot summers. In 1997 we purchased a garage for equipment and chemical storage approval from Great Lakes Council. As the years rolled on Myall Park Croquet Club, with the assistance of grants and hard work from club members and the assistance from Great Lakes Council and Mid Coast Council, now have a Storage Container, toilet, Clubhouse, Gazebo, sun shelters and equipment for the maintenance of our lawns.

Finally Myall Park Croquet club wishes to thank the NSW Government through Sports and Recreation for providing us with a grant for financial assistance in the amount of \$4900 for a much needed new equipment shed.

We would also like to thank Mid Coast Council for their assistance in the stages of construction of the Equipment shed.

Fun day with Rotary and New Equipment Shed purchased through Grant by NSW Sports And Recreation.



VISIT THE CNSW
WEB SITE @
<http://www.croquet-nsw.org>

Connie Hewett
Secretary

WAGGA COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL CARNIVAL

Thirty players from Sydney, Canberra, Jamberoo, Smithtown, Sutherland, Young, Walla Walla, Beechworth, Benalla and Wagga Wagga competed in the Wagga Croquet Club's 10th Annual Golf Croquet Carnival held over four days.

Early starts were the norm, as the weather became hotter as the days continued. Over the four days, fourteen games were played by each player, and, not only the weather became intense, but some of the play was exceptional.

There were two blocks of doubles and four of singles, and the winners were:

Doubles A Block: Peter Freer (Canberra) and Leona Druett (Young)

R/U Peter Lloyd (Wagga) and Lorraine Hatfield (Sutherland)

Doubles B Block – Alison Hine (Wagga) and Sue Booth (Sutherland)

R/U Norma McLennan (Young) and Carol Studdert (Wagga)

Singles A Block – Peter Druett (Young)

R/U Doug Leabeater (Young)

Singles B Block – Lorraine Hatfield (Sutherland)

R/U Cheryl McInerney (Young)

Singles C Block – Christine Blay (Benalla)

R/U Alison Hine (Wagga)

Singles D Block - Maria Harvey (Beechworth)

R/U Lola Westman (Wagga)



Play during the Carnival

Doug Leabeater's Jump Shot



Robyn Wills

M L C SHOWS PROMISE

"Ben shows promise and did very well for his first go at croquet" said Julie O'Brien, coach and former Captain of Ballina Croquet. Julie was referring to the form and style of Ben Franklin, Parliamentary Secretary for Northern NSW, who took to the croquet courts during a recent visit to the club. Mr Franklin attended the club gathering information about current use and potential demand for expanded croquet facilities in Ballina. Ben was responding to the information sent to him by the Croquet Development Working Group about the need for new croquet facilities in Ballina.

Members were impressed by Ben's quick response to the proposal, interest in all the issues and willingness to make time to acquaint himself with the current situation and consider options for the future. Richard Hughes, Captain of Ballina Croquet, in introducing Mr Franklin to members noted that Mr Franklin's stated goal as a parliamentary representative is "to allow regions to develop their potential". Mr Hughes referred to Mr Franklin's record of support and encouragement for regional initiatives so far, adding that the Club looked forward to a fruitful collaboration that will result in the Club's goal of a regional croquet facility being achieved.

Mr Franklin took the opportunity to mingle and talk with members. He also inspected the resources bought and made by members under the Local Sports Grant that the club received in 2016.

At the conclusion of the formalities Julie and Lance Turner, former Queensland state player, gave Ben a run through of the rudiments of the game.



Julie O'Brien, Miles Franklin & Lance Turner

Richard Hughes

THE MOSMAN BASH 2018

(The year of the Martins)

From 16-18 March Mosman held the seventh Mosman Bash, the Club's open singles AC tournament. Twenty-four players in four blocks battled for the substantial prizes for each block. Generous sponsorship from the Bendigo Community Bank Mosman and Mercedes-Benz North Shore enabled winners to walk away with \$150 while the runners-up got \$50. All enjoyed the great inclusive meals and refreshments during the tournament. Most of the entrants were old friends from previous tournaments but for the first time we welcomed players from Coutts Crossing who, as you can read below, made a big impression.

The weather was a factor this year. Friday was fine, Saturday was hot and Sunday was very, very hot: +38°. So play was started early and all matches were finished before 2.30 which avoided the worst of the day.

Blocks were seeded by similar handicaps.

In the Blue Block Cammeray's Michael Strickland and Killara's Ron Buist headed into their final games each with three wins and only one point separating them. Both then won their final matches 14 – 12 letting Michael squeak home as the winner.

In the Red Block Peter Martin's long trip down from Coutts Crossing paid off. He came first with four wins. Also on four wins was Gerard Barry from Chatswood but with ten hoops less on points count back.

In the Green Block our own Rob Wright had a very successful tournament winning all his matches. His handicap is steadily coming down and Gold Division should not be too far away. Expressing utter amazement that she could have won a prize (as she always does) was the lovely Bernice Gibson from Manly. She also had another win in that David Gibson was in the same block!

The Yellow Block was another success for Coutts Crossing. Gillian Martin was a clear and very popular winner with four victories. Second was another expressing amazement, Marjorie Lehmann, Mosman club President with three wins.



The winners with one of the sponsors, Tina Jackson, a director of the Bendigo Bank at Mosman.

Thank you to all at Mosman who contributed to the success of our tournament. The lawns were in great condition after the recent good growing weather and cuts immediately before and half way through provided excellent lawn speed. Thanks to Robert Gibson and his team who were there before seven every day setting up the lawns and getting rid of those pesky leaves and morning dew.

Inside the clubhouse the catering girls turned on a succession of scrumptious sandwiches, cakes and a closing gourmet lunch.

Thank you to all the competitors for the way in which they entered into the spirit of the three days. With each player having five 2½-hour games over two days and a half it was essential to keep things moving. But there was time for a bit of socialising which is an essential part of visiting Mosman. We enjoyed putting on the show and look forward to welcoming everybody back again next year,

***Ron Humpherson
Tournament Manager***

More Mosman Jottings:

Saturday 3 March, with perfect weather, saw Mosman members in party mode. Over 50 came along to "eat, drink and be merry". Ron Humpherson arrived with a Sonic Screen set up for games results to find 48 players ready to try it out with 7 hoop Golf Croquet doubles games. GC doubles players (random draw) set out across the 4 lawns ready to take on other doubles players as well as trying to get the highest number of hoops over three games. Competition was strong with the reward of a couple of fine "reds" to the winning couple who turned out to be David Snedden and Heather Sherlock.

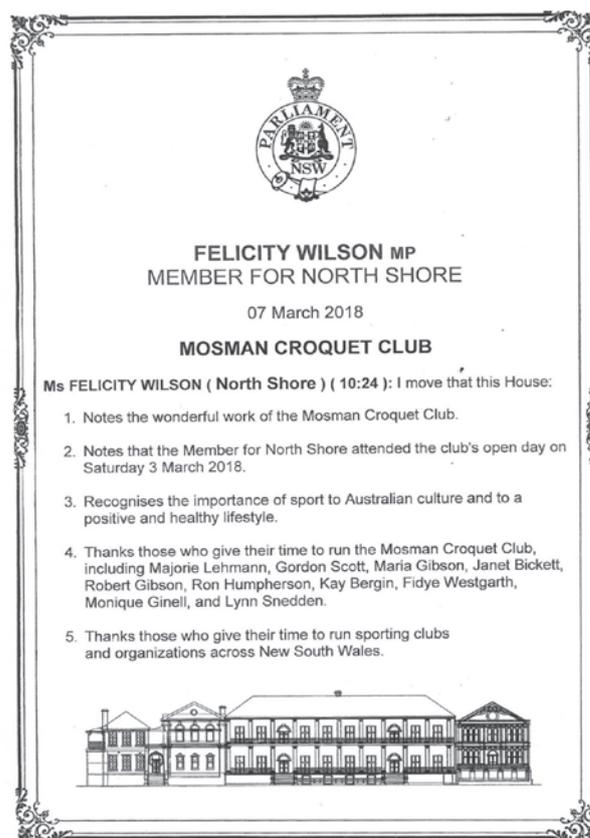
Our local member, Felicity Wilson and her husband Sam, came along. Not satisfied with just presenting prizes and drawing the raffle, both Felicity and Sam insisted on a lesson in Golf Croquet.

...Contd on p. 6

A Gong for Mosman

The club was privileged to be mentioned in parliament by Felicity Wilson our local member. I attach copy of the Hansard. Felicity came to our Open Day with her husband, as well as our Mayor Carolyn Corrigan. They all had a go at Golf Croquet, learnt some AC strokes and had a ball. All good publicity for the game.

Mary Gibson



Contd from p. 5

It was not long before they insisted on a game of GC with Mary Gibson and Jill Edwards partnering a high/low of 7 hoops GC. It was rewarding to see them both just loving the games and the opportunity to play.

In the meantime, our local Mayor Caroline Corrigan called in to see The Annexe. Our president Marjorie Lehmann took her across to lawns 3 and 4. Caroline was very keen to see what the club had achieved in the development of Lawns 3 and 4 and with the erection of the accessible building. The afternoon ended with a fun "shoot to the peg" exercises (12 balls - 6 either side of the peg) directed by Ron Humpherson with a prize for the ball ending up closest to the peg.

Two more success stories from Mosman: (all these news items supplied by Mary Gibson, Club Secretary)

Mending fences at the Mosman Croquet Club

For nearly 100 years, the Mosman Croquet Club has been a part of our community, hosting national competitions and providing a meeting place for our community. I'm pleased to have secured a grant from the Premier to rebuild the safety fence around the club, which has fallen into disrepair over the years.

Local Defibrillator Grants to save lives

In November, Minister for Sport Stuart Ayres and I announced the rollout of the NSW Government's commitment to fund more than 2,500 Automatic External Defibrillators at sporting clubs, along with training and maintenance services. This critical \$4 million program will save lives at sporting clubs and facilities across the state



TAREE WILD FIG CARNIVAL

The annual Taree Wild Fig Golf Croquet Carnival was held from Tuesday 1st May, till Friday 4th May in glorious autumn weather. The thirty six players, all visitors to Taree, came from thirteen different Croquet Clubs in an area stretching from Sawtell in the north, Nowra in the south and Young in the south west.

From the Welcome and Briefing session on Tuesday morning till the Finger Food and Presentation session on Friday afternoon the weather was good, the play competitive but friendly, the cuppas and nibbles frequent and the courts in their usual good condition. The only downside were noisy road marking machines working on Albert St for a day - but we now have a reconstructed, marked, smooth road beside the Club.

The players were divided into 2 groups of 18. One group played doubles while the other group became 2 blocks of singles for Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday and Friday, the groups were reversed. With 36 people playing 216 games over the 4 days, there was never a spare court. But with the friendly atmosphere prevailing amongst the players and Game Starter Lyn directing games to courts, each day's games were completed before 4pm. This enabled visitors to Taree to shop, look around Taree or decide which restaurant to try that evening.

On Wednesday evening, 32 players and non-playing spouses, enjoyed the Carnival Dinner at the Sailo's Restaurant in the Aquatic Club on the banks of the Manning River. Taree Croquet Club thanks Mid Coast Council for their sponsorship and local businesses and members for their donations toward the raffles.

Also thanked were the players, who spent some of their non-playing time refereeing games and the Taree Club members who helped during the event.

Winners and runner-ups were:

Singles: Block A:

Winner: Cheryl Lloyd (Nelson Bay Club)

Runner-up: Carol Goodman (Macquarie City Club)

Singles: Block B:

Winner: Kay Barron (EDSACC Club)

Runner-up: Sandy Tawa (Nelson Bay Club)

Singles: Block C:

Winner: Elaine Coles (Forster Club)

Runner-up: Stephen Dilley (Forster Club)

Singles: Block D:

Winner: Marie Munns (Toronto Club)

Runner-up: Robert Greig (Forster Club)

Golf Croquet Doubles: Block G

Winner: Mary and Robert Greig (Forster Club)

Runner-up: Di Milne and Larry Becroft (Nowra Club)

Golf Croquet Doubles: Block H

Winner: Cheryl Lloyd and Sandy Tawa (Nelson Bay Club)

Runner-up: John Graham and Max Gleeson (Smithtown Club)

***Tom Akre
Carnival Manager***



Photo courtesy Phil Sage



CHELTENHAM'S NEWS

Cheltenham has been busy in the past few months with the purchase of three sets of quadway hoops. While there was an initial discussion on how to set them and the difference in weight from the previous hoops, it all came together and the hoops were in action for the home game pennants. Some members were initially trepidatious about the change, but now embrace the hoops with pride.



One of our stately members, Keith Robinson, showing how it is done with new hoops

Of course, with new hoops came the necessity for new centre pegs and it was difficult to find a style to our liking, so one of our very talented members David Capple came to the rescue and was able to design and make the pegs to regulation standard and include secondary colours.



New centre peg with David Capple.



Cheltenham: Rosemary Little, Michael Freeman, Manly: Pam Cameron-Smith and Steve Curtis.

Many members assist in the hosting of home game pennants and to provide professionalism within the games we provide a scorer for each match and a roving umpire to be called when a player attempts a jump or there is some discrepancy with the shot about to be played. We also provide a cheer squad for both sides (without bias) and applaud the wonderful standard of play.

Cheltenham has a wonderful team spirit and Del our social convener is always on hand providing welcoming hospitality and warmth, co-ordinating countless cups of tea, coffee and lovely yummy food when hosting other clubs.



David Capple, Del Hann and Elizabeth Clarke (Manly singles player).

The club has now introduced a rigorous coaching session for prospective new members and in April saw this trialled. The session ran for 2-3 hours on Tuesdays over three weeks with the final session on rules and demonstration of faults. A few experienced members also offered their time and while it was intense, results were obtained. These newer players were then asked to play on Wednesdays and are mentored by experienced members for several weeks.

June looks to be a very busy month for Cheltenham when we will be hosting the GC Selectors Second 8's and showcasing our club. As well as this, four of our members will be branching into International playing when they go to Vanuatu to compete in the Cocoon Cup. I am sure there will be many wonderful stories to tell on their return. I will keep you informed.

Rosemary Freeman

COOGEE CROQUET CLUB

Coogee Club offers a fresh sea breeze in the shade of huge fig trees and members play almost every day of the week. On Fridays we gather on the greens for hard fought games and follow this with drinks and food. Saturday remains our main Club Day. Our fifty plus members enjoy great company with new friends and old stalwarts. Everyone plays Golf Croquet, and Association Croquet is due for a revitalisation. Val Lloyd will run classes in the second half of the year to introduce AC. In some terms we offer Community College Classes for Beginners Golf Croquet. These have been successful in promoting the Club and finding new members.

Club members have taken to Pennant competitions with gusto, not winning always but meeting players from other Clubs and studying their Club surroundings. We play regularly with Sydney Croquet Club too. Club competitions include our Mayor's Cup played over the full year, with points for playing, as well as points for winning. 2017 champions were celebrated at the Annual Opening of the Season in February 2018.

SINGLES	2017	Winner	Trophy
Open	Mar	Val Lloyd	Honour Board
Tens	Apr	Margaret Hope	B Notley-Smith MP Honour Board
Handicap Knockout	July	Robert King	Honour Board
7-8-9	Aug- Sept	Peter Buswell	Trophy
Handicap	Oct	Jann van Kamp	Honour Board
DOUBLES			
Open	May	Sue Hamilton & Robin Sen	
Handicap	Oct	Sue Hamilton & Janice Lowe	
Handicap Knockout	Nov	Helen & Robin Sen	
Over 80s	Dec	Judy Watts & Penny Nelson	
MAYORS CUP	Feb- Nov	Peter Buswell	Trophy
Buzz played 96 games of which 44 were competition and 52 non-competition			

We are pleased to have successful 'hirings' of the Clubhouse and greens. Regular groups use the Clubhouse, during the day for Buddhist studies and Mahjong, and in the evenings for meditation and yoga. In addition community groups hire our facilities for one-off social events, team bonding and professional development and the guests enjoy being introduced to croquet in pleasant surroundings. This all helps with income for greens maintenance and for purchasing new equipment.

We were delighted to be granted funding in the Commonwealth's Stronger Communities Programme to build shade shelters and seating at each end of the two greens. The nature of our lease of the property has created problems for us in obtaining permission to install those. The Club was required to have a survey of the grounds at our own cost, eating in to the Grant funds, and a DA for any changes. We had assumed small shade shelters with benches would be a simple addition separate from the Clubhouse. We have another grant from the Grants Unit of Sport NSW for new balls, Quadway hoops and further shading and seating. Under the Local Sport Defibrillator Program, The Office of Sport NSW has funded a Defibrillator - most of our members are in a high-risk demographic! The apparatus will be supplied by Vital Resus and is a Heartsine Samaritan PAD 500P Defibrillator.

*Rosemary King
Coogee CC*

DENNIS THE MENACE



"IT'S CALLED CROQUET. IT'S SOMETHING
LIKE GOLF ONLY IT'S FUN."

COWRA CROQUET CLUB

A beautiful sunny autumn morning heralded the arrival of some twenty four visitors to the Cowra Croquet Club to join our local members for our Golf Croquet Gala Day on 8 May. We welcomed a big contingent from the nearby Young Croquet Club, one carload from Orange Croquet Club and quite a number all the way from Hazelbrook Croquet Club. As our guests busied themselves with registration, morning tea and catching up with friends, we organised the draw for the Golf Tournament and the day started in earnest with the first sixteen of the players taking the courts at 10 am. Whilst not involved in matches on court, players were able to test their skills in a variety of challenging activities which were designed to help improve the player's shot making and thus, hopefully, their overall game.

Players from all four clubs often found themselves in very tight tussles and all agreed that the competition was indeed quite fierce for the greater part of the day. After much excitement and exertion from all participants, Doug Leabeater from Young emerged as the overall winner of the tournament. Hearty congratulations Doug!

Others to win in the various activities included Sam Taylor with Shot of the Day with a lovely ricochet hoop from several yards out (Sam even surprised himself we think). Bev Johnson, Leona Druitt and Cheryl McLean all managed a hole in one during the day whilst the skill activities saw Pat McIlhatten, Sam Taylor, Doug Leabeater and Ros Thomas all having high scores to win one or other of the skill sections. Prizes were presented to all the winners during a lovely spread of afternoon tea after which Helen Bryant, our President, thanked all our guests for attending and wished them a very safe journey home to their respective towns.

A very successful day of croquet fun and fellowship. Thanks to all who came from the other towns to make it such a success and thanks also to the Cowra members who contributed so much to both the organisation of the tournament as well as the morning and afternoon teas.

Thank you one and all.



Doug Leabeater, Peter Druitt, and Ken Langton all from Young, looking on as Mick Tanner from Hazelbrook tees off on their game

Faye Smithard, Hazelbrook, and Norma McLennan, Young, watching as Ken Langton's ball rolls toward the hoop



WORLD CROQUET DAY



Jan Trengove trying to get the ball up the plank to drop through the hole into the bucket, encouraged by Netta Noack. Both Cowra players.

*Chris Palazzi,
Publicity Officer*



BLUE MOUNTAINS & HAZELBROOK CLUBS

A friendly day between Hazelbrook Croquet Club and Blue Mountains Croquet Club to celebrate World Croquet Day in the Blue Mountains. This was the third year running the two clubs have celebrated World Croquet Day at Peter Carroll Field - the home of the Blue Mountains Club.

We played non-handicap golf croquet with each team playing 5 games in a doubles competition with 6 teams from each side and 24 players in total. The day dawned bright and sunny - not a cloud in the sky and with a maximum temperature of 23 degrees. A perfect day for croquet.

At 9am sharp all the players, referees and attendants were on their designated lawn ready to begin. At the end of the first game we all retired for a delicious morning tea, and then we were quickly back on the lawns for a further two games before retiring for lunch. On entering the clubhouse after this round of games the results were displayed for all on the TV. Four teams were vying for first place. After lunch and the necessary photo shoot we were out on the lawns again for the final two games.

By 3pm all games were finalised and we were back in the clubhouse for afternoon tea and the presentations. Four teams had won all their games so the winners were decided on hoops won and lost.

The winners of the day were Jan Vaughan and Pete Beerkens from the Blue Mountains Club. The runners-up were Darryl Nelson and Wendy Callaghan also from the Blue Mountains Club.

Everyone agreed it had been another wonderful day. Special thanks go to those who helped in all the organisation, mowing of lawns, cleaning up and setting up both in the kitchen and on the lawns to ensure that everything would run smoothly on the day.

Lyn Cook

- MAY 2018



The players from Blue Mountains and Hazelbrook Clubs



NOWRA CLUB

Brian Mitchell donated \$100 prize money to celebrate world Croquet day and his return to Croquet after his liver transplant.

The format for the competition was single knock out level play. Fifteen Nowra members played in the event, the shot of the day was Brian's second shot after being away from the game for several weeks: David Turvey played Blue to a position in front of hoop 1, Brian played red, David Played Black then Brian played yellow intending to take out blue, yellow ricocheted off blue and scored the hoop to the applause of the onlookers.

Brian in block 1 looked like winning his own competition until he encountered Graeme Lovell in the third round, Graeme beat Brian 7/4.

In the second block Don Sawers won all three of his games to make it to the finals and was beaten 7/3 by Graeme.



Don Sawers , Brian Mitchell, and Graham Lovell

*Margaret Sawers
Captain*

NOWRA CLUB HOSTS A WAKE FOR NIC RUSSELL

Responding to a request of Nic's family , a wake was held at the Nowra Croquet Courts as a fitting tribute to Nic. Nic's elderly mother flew from England for the funeral which was also attended by Nowra Croquet Members, whilst others prepared a light luncheon at the club house. During the course of the luncheon, members met with Nic's relatives, whilst the young people attending were entertained with some fun croquet.

Bob Williamson



*Wake Photos courtesy of Karen James,
Treasurer*

Valé

NIC RUSSELL

Our Club lost a much liked member on the 1st of April, with the passing of Nic Russell, a member of some 6 years standing.

Although Nic was handicapped through his failing health he always had a smile and a good word and played his game with tenacity and was an enjoyable competitor. Nic represented our club in the winning 3rd grade Pennants team in 2017.

A sad loss to our club.



Our sympathy is extended to Nic's family and his friends.



**CLAIRE BASSETT wins the
AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S AC OPEN**

NSW continues its dominance in Women's Association Croquet. After being shuffled between Alison Sharpe and Alix Verge since

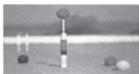
2012 Claire Bassett entered the competition for the first time since 2008 and showed opponents and spectators in Adelaide how the game should be played.

Only 28 of 65 games in the Women's Open were pegged out, yet none of Claire's games went to time. Each of Claire's turns were characterized by solid break-making or setting of leaves ensuring the seed of a break should oppo miss her roquet. Her style was relaxed. When she missed the occasional roquet Claire left the lawn knowing that it was the shot that would have given her the best chance to win had she hit.

Too often players in the field ignored this choice selecting instead the option that hurt them the least should they miss. This led to highly defensive play seemingly with the intention not of generating breaks but of stopping the opposition from making breaks. Ultimately, in order to make hoops one must take chances. Many of the highly defensive players in the field were totally able to make solid breaks but would only take the chance after the bell.

Claire was a worthy winner. She took the chances that presented themselves and was rewarded with the gorgeous (and *beautifully* polished) 1886 hand-worked, silver trophy. Congratulations Claire.

***Alix Verge
Defending Champion & Finalist***



2018 EIRE CUP, ADELAIDE

With several of the usual suspects being unable to play this year NSW entered the Eire Cup with an exciting, "new look" team containing a few stalwarts, some new faces and the reappearance of a past player we had thought "retired" from the competition. The Association carnival was held in Adelaide at Norwood and North Adelaide Croquet Clubs and a combined venue of SACA's headquarter Hutt Street 3 lawns plus one South Terrace CC lawn some 500 yards away in the city parklands.

Pam Gentle, absent as an Eire Cup player since the competition was last held in Adelaide in 2013 but often acting as Team Manager, acted as both manager and player this year. Barbara McDonald and Rob Elliott played



Team New South Wales

for the first time joining repeat offenders Alan Honey, Rosemary Landrebe, Stephen Richards, Alix Verge and Alan Walsh.

The new team was a great combo, the cohesion being obvious in their stellar doubles results. NSW won 16 of its 20 doubles matches over the 5 days with Victoria limping into second place with only 11 wins. The total newbies Barbara McDonald and Rob Elliott, playing with Alan Honey and Pam Gentle respectively, each won 3 of 5 doubles matches and could be seen on their lawns laughing and joking their way around the courts with their partners. Starting the singles rounds each day with NSW 4 – 0 or 3 – 1 up after the morning doubles matches was a great fillip for NSW morale.

Team spirit was high for the entire competition, each member putting in 100% effort each day. Teams play 4 doubles and 16 singles matches in each day so the NSW players were disappointed to miss out on overall second place (to Victoria) by only 1 game out of 100 played. South Australia, on home turf, were the clear winners albeit with some very close results. 3 of SA's wins were 11-9 victories showing just how closely matched all state teams were ... agonizingly close (see below).

Rob Elliott, in his first Eire Cup, had 8 wins out of 10 in the Singles, and 3 out of 5 in the Doubles. Rosie Landrebe was outstanding with 9 wins out of 10 in the Singles, and 5 out of 5 in the Doubles which was the best result of any of the men or women playing at numbers 1 or 2 from any state. Alix Verge was the only woman to achieve a triple peel (against South Australia), and had 7 wins out of 10 in the Singles. Pam Gentle and Barb McDonald each added 4 singles wins to their 60% success rate in the doubles which was an *excellent* result.

Full results for NSW can be found on croquetscores.com but the daily round up was:-

NSW vs SA	9 - 11	NSW vs WA	16 - 4
NSW vs TAS	13 - 7	NSW v VIC	9—11
NSW vs QLD	14 - 6		

So close.....

Alix Verge

CNSW GC Div 3 Singles and Doubles Tournament

The Tournament was hosted by Canberra Croquet Club and played over 5 days from March 5 to March 9. Nine pairs registered for the Doubles with three from Mosman, one from EDSAAC and five Canberra pairs. It was refreshing to see more than half the field playing in their first tournament. All games were played in very pleasant Canberra Autumn weather.

Doubles Winners:
Julie Toms and Jill Jones (Canberra)
with Judy Tier, TM



Runners Up: Mark and Helen Scruton (Canberra)

The field for Singles was reduced to six after the withdrawal of a previous Doubles player due to medical problems. This meant the players had more byes and fewer games needed to be double-banked.

After three days of Singles the Winner was **Mark Scruton (Canberra)** whose handicap went from a 10 through 9 to 8. Mark and Helen have been with Canberra Croquet Club (CCC) for two weeks and hail from East Brisbane. The Runner Up was Craig Oxley (Canberra).

It was an exciting finish with the final round determining positions.

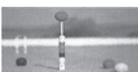
Special thanks to Peter Freer, tournament referee and Adrienne Fazekas, referee who managed play every day and ensured the tournament went smoothly.

Thanks also to all CCC members who volunteered their time and cooking skills to contribute to a successful five days of competition.



All entrants for the Doubles plus Peter Freer (TR), Adrienne Fazekas (Referee) and Judy Tier (TM)

Judy Tier
Tournament Manager



AC 5 and Under Doubles 10-11 March

Block - DRR	RL&JB	AS&GD	RE&DS	NH&RB	Wins	Net Hoops
Rosemary Landrebe & John Bartrop (Cammeray/Killara)	23 11	18 26	26 26	5	28	
Alison Sharpe & Gareth Denyer (Killara/Marrickville)	22 26	26 26	22 26	4	86	
Robert Elliott & David Stanton (Chatswood/Cammeray)	17 13	5 0	26TP (RE) 26	2	-19	
Neil Hartley & Ron Buist (Cammeray/Killara)	9 15	23 0	2 8	1	-95	

No report for this event—congratulations to Rosemary and John on their win.



NSW Men's Singles Championship (GC) 6—8 April



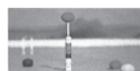
The semi-finalists in the NSW Men's Open Singles
David Wood, John Levick, Ralph Richardson

This competition was held from 6-8 April. There was a strong field of 13 players who enjoyed many close matches. Ralph Richardson won the block, with 10 wins, closely followed by David Hanbidge and David Woods with 9 wins and John Levick with 8 wins. Three other players, John Cole, Peter Freer and Peter Montague all won 7 games.

The finals provided lots of excitement. David Hanbidge beat David Woods and had to wait to find who his opponent would be. John won the first semi-final game against Ralph, then Ralph fought back in the second game. Eventually John defeated Ralph and continued his winning streak to defeat David Hanbidge in the final. David Woods meanwhile defeated Ralph by 2 games to 1 in the playoff for 3rd place.

Well done to all players. The weather was fine and the camaraderie strong. We warmly thank Alan Robinson, Ros Johnstone and Wendy Fothergill for refereeing.

Liz Montague & John Eddes:
Tournament Managers



**NSW Women's GC Championship
13-15 April 2018**



The participants (pictured) were: Pauline Markwell, Liz Montague, Dianne Bonnitcha, Georgina Carnegie, Kate McLoughlin, Brenda Wild, Pam Gentle, Lorraine Hatfield, Ros Johnstone, Nerida Taylor and Margaret Sawers.

The players provided a most enjoyable competition, exhibiting a high standard of play and sustained intensity throughout, and were unperturbed by hot sticky conditions at the start and increasingly gusty winds later on.

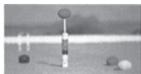
Kate McLoughlin dominated the block, looking unshakeable with 9 wins, and was followed by Brenda Wild with 7. Then came four players all on 6 wins, two of whom slipped through to the semi-finals on net hoops. All the other players had games they could be proud of.

In the semi-finals, Pauline Markwell showed steely determination and accuracy to overcome Kate, while Liz Montague fought off some strong roqueting and accurate placement by Brenda. Not surprisingly, the ensuing final was long and intense, with Liz ultimately holding on for the third game.

The tournament was greatly helped by having a strong body of referees - Peter Freer, Lynda Toms, David Gibson, Michael Morton-Evans, Ron Johnstone, Bill Munns and Stephen Howes - we are very grateful to them all for their time and expertise.

It was also a great pleasure that so many of the players and some others came back on the Sunday to support the finals series. They were attentive and even demonstrative, which gave spice to the occasion.

***John Eddes and Peter Montague
Tournament Managers***



NSW Division 2 GC Doubles & Singles Championships

The 2018 CNSW Division 2 GC Doubles and Singles Championships were held at Sutherland over the period commencing Sunday 18th March through to Thursday 22nd March.

Six (6) pairs took part in the doubles and there were thirteen (13) entrants in the singles, with the players coming from Canberra, EDSAAC, Mosman, Narooma, Nelson Bay, Nowra, Royal Sydney, Sutherland and Toronto clubs.

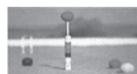
The Doubles Championship was programmed as a double round robin event to be held on the Sunday and Monday. Unfortunately, by 11.30 am on Sunday, and with only two rounds fully completed, the temperature had already exceeded 35 degrees and was forecast to reach 40 degrees in the early afternoon. With the well-being of the players in mind, the Venue Manager and Tournament Referee had no option but to call a stop to play for the remainder of the day. With play restricted to two days, the decision was also made to reduce the event to a single round robin, with the top four (4) pairs to play off in a single game semi-final and final.

The semi-finals resulted in Debbie Morgan (Sutherland) and Ted Lyng (Toronto) defeating Denese McCann (Toronto) and Kate McLoughlin (Canberra) by 7-6, and Larry Becroft and Brian Mitchell (Nowra) defeating Penny and Brian Giersch (EDSAAC) by 7-4. **The final saw Larry and Brian declared Champions** with Debbie and Ted runners-up with a final score of 7-5.

For the Singles event, the weather did a complete turnaround and players on the Tuesday were subjected to periodic drenching throughout the day, and by Thursday the temperature was down to 18 degrees. Fortunately the event was able to be completed as programmed as a single round robin. The competition was very close with the championship not decided until the end of the last round.

The top 2 players were **Kate McLoughlin (Canberra) and Larry Becroft (Nowra)**, both with 9 wins and 3 losses. **Kate was declared Champion** with an advantage of just 5 net hoops. Ted Lyng (Toronto) was third with 8 wins and 4 losses, and Brian Mitchell (Nowra) fourth with 7 wins 5 losses, in front of Rob Elliott (RSGC) and Georgina Carnegie (RSGC) with the same win / loss record.

***John Bennett
Sutherland Croquet Club
Venue Manager***



AC Platinum Singles

The Platinum Singles were played in ideal Autumn weather conditions on Saturday and Sunday April 21 and 22. The lawns were in top condition and the payers were impressed by the improvement in facilities at Tempe. There were four competitors who played six games in a double round robin.

The tournament winner was Steve Miles who was undefeated and the runner up was Stephen Howes. As usual there were some terrific breaks but also puzzling tactics. Long roquets seem to be made quite frequently but short roquets were also missed far too often.

There is no better way to improve your croquet than the intensive games you get in Croquet NSW competitions. And after all the excitement you can finish by having a beer at the Concordia club at the end of the day. Tempe is well worth a visit.

Steve Miles
Tournament Manager



NSW Gold and Silver Singles 2018

The Gold/Silver Singles were played as a combined event at Tempe over the two days of Monday April 30 and Tuesday May 1. The first day consisted of a round robin of two blocks of four players. The block positions were then used for the draw for an exhaustive knockout on day 2 to determine the eight finishing positions.

It was very disappointing that only two Silver players entered the Silver Singles. Where are all the other players on handicaps 9 to 12? Special thanks to Sue Eldridge-Smith, on a handicap of 14, who decided to have a crack at the Silver event, and then agreed to play in the combined Gold/Silver event, where she played players mainly on handicaps 5 to 8. Well done, Sue!

The eventual winner was Ron Buist who won his final against Ralph Richardson as the light faded on Tuesday afternoon. Ron grabbed the lead after time was called but then missed his roquet from a hampered shot after passing through rover, giving him a one hoop lead with Ralph on peg and hoop six. This error left Ron's ball on A baulk with Ralph having a lift and all the balls in useful, if not ideal, positions. Ralph's last rush to hoop 6 went two yards behind the hoop and his return take off just managed to settle on the hoop leg, giving Ron an 18-17 victory.

Both Ron and Ralph reduced their handicaps over the two days, Ron from 5 to 4.5, and Ralph from 8 to 7. The other places were also keenly contested with the final results for the Gold Championship being

- 1st – Ron Buist
- 2nd – Ralph Richardson
- 3rd – Barbara McDonald
- 4th – Ted Woodley
- 5th – David Stanton
- 6th – Tim Woolford-Smith
- 7th – Gerard Barry
- 8th – Sue Eldridge Smith

The Silver champion was Ted Woodley, and Sue Eldridge-Smith was runner up with the result determined from their relative finishing positions in the main draw.

Thanks to Tournament Referee Michael Strickland and referees Pat Gilchrist, Stephen Howes and Steve Miles. Six matches in two days in great Autumn weather. Life doesn't get any better than this.

Steve Miles and David Stanton
Tournament Managers



Beryl Chambers Qualifying Northern Sydney

The Beryl Chambers competition is a state-wide event with the placegetters from regional events playing in a final at Tempe.

The Northern Sydney regional event was held at Cammeray from April 16 to 19. There were 6 entrants (5 from Cammeray and 1 from Chatswood) who played a single round robin with each player having 5 games. Games were scheduled around club scheduled playing times which led to a more relaxed timetable and a flexible program. Referees were Mike Hughes, Michael Strickland and Steve Miles.

The competition was tight with only 5 of the fifteen games going to peg out. The eventual winner was Steve Miles with four wins. Sue Eldridge Smith was runner up on net points with three wins, the same number of wins as Margaret O'Brien and Torben Albaek (Chatswood).

Autumn is surely the best time of the year to play croquet and the lights at Cammeray meant that games were able to be played into the evening.

Steve Miles
Tournament Manager

I went along one afternoon
to learn to play croquet.
Looks simple watching from the side;
more difficult to play.

Sometimes you play in teams of two,
sometimes it's one on one.
You aim to hit a ball through hoops;
get seven and you've won.

Each player has a wooden mallet
to suit their size and strength,
with weighted head and handle grip
cut perfectly to length.

Some have fancy metal bits,
gold lettering, the lot.
But even from the finest club
can come a lousy shot.

So that's the gear, now for the rules.
It's like golf without a tee;
like snooker without a table top;
like bowls without bended knee.

It has the challenges of chess,
thinking several moves ahead;
and remembering that it's yellow follows
black which follows red.

So that's the basics, ready to play.
First a coin is tossed.
The winner plays with blue and black;
red and yellow if you lost.

Shaping up for the first big hit.
We're playing Golf Croquet.
With a back swing up at shoulder height,
I'm reminded that's not the way.

You stalk the ball and line it up;
steady as you hold her.
The back swing is between the legs;
push forward with the shoulders.

I've lined it up at hoop number one,
ready for a score.
I thought I had the perfect shot,
but watch the player before.

Given the chance, he'll knock me away
with a stop shot, just to be mean,
so his ball takes over my good spot
and my ball's off the green.



It looks like an aggressive game.
Bash the opponent's ball away.
But if you're clever you may get
a hoop from a ricochet.

That's called "in off", but there's a chance
you'll hit the opponent through.
Of course they get the point for that
and sarcastically say "thank you".

I see the players carry pegs.
At first I wondered why.
They mark the hoops at which you've hung
your opponents out to dry.

And there are penalties to watch;
some faults you have to learn,
like double tap and hit wrong ball.
For those you miss a turn.

There are some hazards in this game;
some can be predicted.
Look at the age of those on the court.
Exhaustion is self inflicted.

A ball can travel at 40 clicks
across the short mown grass
and do some damage to ankles and shins.
It's best to let it pass.

There is a target for every shot
that requires perfect direction.
It may be to move an opponent's ball,
which depends on a good connection.

It may be to stop on a certain spot
To set up for your next go,
Or to block your opponent from their next shot;
So it can't be too fast or slow.

So a combination of power and aim,
is the skill you need for croquet;
and if you can't go through the hoop
attack the next ball to play.

And have fun.

Len Banks

Len is a member of the Orange City Croquet Club, a local artist and poet. He is an active member of Rotary and is the convenor of the annual Banjo Paterson Bush Poetry competition held in conjunction with the Orange Banjo Paterson Festival.

BALLINA HOSTS BRENDA WILD'S VISIT TO NORTHERN RIVERS REGION

Brenda Wild, Chairperson, Croquet NSW, addressed a well attended gathering of members from the Northern Rivers Croquet clubs at Ballina on 18 April 2018.

Members from Alstonville, Ballina, Ballina - Cherry St, Byron Bay and Lismore were appreciative and attentive participants in the discussion. Brenda outlined her role as Chair and Director responsible for Membership, Insurance and Ricochet. All agreed that it was a worthwhile session as it gave an opportunity to hear firsthand what is happening across the state, what plans the board has for ensuring croquet is governed appropriately and how regionalisation is being taken up in other areas of the state.

Ricochet adoption and development also occupied considerable discussion as all local clubs have enthusiastically adopted Ricochet. Northern Rivers Croquet Association has held an interclub Ricochet tournament for several years and it is hoped that members from all NRCA clubs will enter this year's tournament.

After the talk members moved to the lawns for games of Ricochet and Golf to cap off an interesting and worthwhile gathering.

Everyone was very positive about the day and appreciative of Brenda taking the time and trouble to travel to the Northern Rivers.



L. Members listen attentively to Brenda.



R. Discussing tactics on the lawn

Richard Hughes

NSW CLEAN SWEEP AT AUSTRALIAN GC OPEN

REPORT SUPPLIED BY DAVID HANBIDGE

A record contingent of NSW players headed south in early May to take on the nation's best at the 2018 Australian Open GC Doubles and Singles Championships in Melbourne and came home with all the silverware. **Alison Sharpe was the star winning the singles and teaming with fellow New South Welshman David Hanbidge, from Nowra, to win the doubles.** The Killara superstar became only the second woman to win the singles title, and the first to win both the doubles and singles titles in the one year. Although, you could say her timing was definitely a bit out! This year was the first for sometime where no prizemoney was on offer for the winners. Last year the winner received \$1000, but this year despite an increase in entry fees, prizemoney was dropped and Alison received \$0. The ACA voted to cut prizemoney for the event as part of its cost cutting strategy.

Ali's brilliant Aussie Open win continues an outstanding year for Australia's top women players, with Fleur Brockway from Western Australia also getting the better of the men to win the ACA Presidents 8, also at Cairnlea in Melbourne, earlier in the year. Alison beat South Australian Ron McBride in the final of the singles in four tough games, characterized by brilliant clearances by Alison and clever placement by Ron. Alison earlier got the better of her doubles partner David Hanbidge in a nail-biting five game semi-final when she came back from 4-nil in the final game to win on the 13th hoop.

In the Doubles final, Alison and David beat South Aussies David Wise and John Arney in three straight games.

Other NSW players to make it through the block stage into the play-offs of the singles were Peter Montague and Richard Christian. While Liz Montague scored one of the biggest upsets of the tournament beating the defending champion Lester Hughes in the block play. Lester managed to regroup and played some great croquet before going down to Ron McBride in the semi-final. Completing the NSW clean sweep of the trophies was Peter Freer, from Canberra, who won the plate, while also making the semi-final of the doubles with his partner Steve Thornton from Maitland.

The tournament will be remembered for the outrageously tough conditions which were whipped up by a huge Antarctic storm that hit Melbourne at finals time. As temperatures dropped, winds in the city were recorded at 90kmph close to Cairnlea, making for uncomfortable horizontal rain and balls being blown off line. Those with patience and good wet weather gear benefitting. A big congratulations must also go to all the other NSW players who supported this event and helped maintain its prestigious position as the most important even on the national GC calendar.



BIRTHDAY TOURNAMENT

Cammeray's Birthday Tournament was held from Thursday May 10 to Saturday May 12, 2018. The 2018 dates for the tournament were moved from March because of the busy March schedule and traditional rain in March. But this year we managed to get the first very cold days of winter!

The tournament is for handicaps of 0-12 and is limited to 16 players who play advanced handicap games. The first round of the tournament consists of a round robin amongst four groups of four players. In the next round the top two players of each pool go to the main draw. The bottom two play off to go to the main draw or the plate. Once in the main draw players are not eliminated unless they lose twice but players in the plate are eliminated after their first loss.

The first finalist was Ian Lucas (from Cammeray) who made the final undefeated. The remaining players in the main draw all had one loss, so they kept playing elimination matches until Gerard Barry (from Chatswood) survived and became the other finalist. The final was played in cold weather as the spectators enjoyed the warmth of the clubhouse, some warm finger food and a glass of wine. The undefeated form of Ian Lucas continued although the match was by no means a foregone conclusion even though the score was 19-7.

The plate final was between Glenda Chaplyn (Southport) and Steve Marton (Manly) with Steve winning 20-7.

The prize money for the event was generously donated by club member Maureen Cope and in recognition of her support over recent years the tournament trophy was renamed the "Maureen Cope Trophy".

The tournament gives all players between 5 and 9 games over three days, including the experience of playing under lights. Next year's event will be held a little earlier on Friday May 1 to Sunday May 3, 2019, so mark your diaries now.

Steve Miles



AUSTRALIAN GOLF CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIP AND INTERSTATE SHIELD

The above event will be held in the Hunter region from the 7th September to the 16th September 2018. Host clubs will be Newcastle National Park, EDSAC (the Entrance) Maitland and Toronto. The official welcome and BBQ will be held at the Newcastle Club on 7th.

An official reception and welcome will be held in Newcastle on the 11th where state captains will introduce the teams competing. The presentation of trophies will be held at the Beaches Hotel Merewether on 16th Sept 2018.

*Christine Pont
Publicity*

CROQUET NSW – JUNIOR CROQUET

An update on dates and venues :

JUNIOR DAYS

HUNTERS HILL	A Sunday to be finalised
NOWRA	Friday 13 July - 9.30am – 2.30pm
TORONTO	Friday 12 October – 9.30am – 2.30pm

A big thank you to the clubs who have offered their venue.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

24 – 25 November	CNSW Junior Championships Mackey Park Tempe
12 - 14 January 2019	Australian Under 21 Singles and Doubles Adelaide, South Australia

Any questions please contact Jacky McDonald at geofmcd@gmail.com

NEWCASTLE NATIONAL PARK

Newcastle National Park recently held its Association Carnival. On the first day 3 games of jet were played with different partners - all games were matched evenly. This day was more social to allow visitors to get to know the courts and each other. Congratulations to Jan Sullivan of Forster - only one to win all three games; and to Stephen Howes of Cammeray winning 2 games with the most points.

Tuesday to Thursday saw the Singles Handicap Competition of our AC Carnival. There were 2 blocks.

Red Block consisted of six players ranging between 4 and 8. Blue block had one withdrawal so had five players ranging from 10 to 20.

Congratulations to Alan Gray and Stephen Howes - winner and runner-up of red block; and to Kerrie Sutherland(10) and Ross Levick (20) - winner and runner-up of blue block. Elaine McDiarmid, Tournament Referee, presented the prizes.

The Carnival was enjoyed by all.



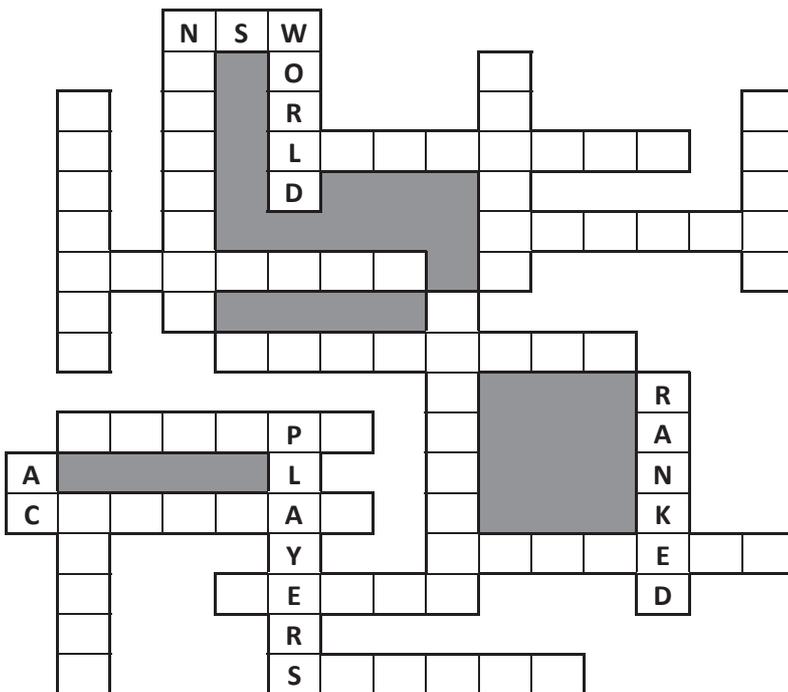
Alan Gray, Elaine McDiarmid, Stephen Howes



Kerrie Sutherland, Elaine McDiarmid, Ross Levick

Kerrie Sutherland

A Teaser to fill in some free moments in your busy lives—courtesy of David Stanton



This crossword contains the surnames of the top 15 AC players in NSW by World Ranking as at 31 May 2018.

Can you identify them all?

No other clues are required.

Good luck!

For most of us female players it's a pretty big and bold decision to put one's break at risk by triple peeling one's own partner ball.

However, if an opponent stopped their first break at 3 back instead of 4 back to avoid their ball being pegged off the lawn in a TPO the men were happy - indeed, *excited* - to walk onto the lawn and execute a QPO, ie peeling the opponent's ball through its remaining 4 hoops (!) and pegging it off the lawn.

These young guys sprint onto the lawn as if saying, "Bwahaha – look what I can do beat that!" while the more mature Stephen Forster would step demurely onto the lawn and do exactly the same thing, but in low key fashion.

Although the test series was played and won as a team event a couple of players stood out. Malcolm Fletcher (Vic) won all his singles and 2 of three doubles matches

and played consistently brilliantly throughout, earning him the Most Valuable Player of the Series award.

Jenny Clarke (NZ) was spectacularly undefeated in both doubles and singles over the 6 days and Edward Wilson (SA) was the only player to win all his singles matches in 2 games and was regularly finished play before lunch time.

Despite being the first Trans Tasman series to be played with double-banked singles games Wynnum was a great venue for the event. The lawns were very good as were the clubhouse volunteers and Liz and Bruce Fleming (tournament referee and manager respectively) put in many more hours than we players. The Patron's trophy (AC) will be held at Wynnum this year and I can guarantee that anyone making the trek north for that event will have an excellent week of croquet.

Alix Verge



A 'Selfie' of the happy and successful Team!



Malcolm Fletcher with his award for Most Valuable Player