

# CROQUET NSW NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021



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## WORLD CROQUET DAY, MAY 1

It's World Croquet Day on Saturday, May 1st! Croquet Australia has produced a range of videos and online tools to promote Croquet and to attract newcomers to try the sport.

Below are the Social Media posts created for the upcoming World Croquet Day.

### FIND YOUR NEAREST CLUB

Will allow people wanting to play for the first time to locate the club closest to them by simply keying in their suburb. This feature can be found at the end of each promotional video.

### INTERESTED IN GOING

Clubs will be able to review their posts and see how many people may be attending.

### WORLD CROQUET DAY BLOG

Has been set up and can be used for other events. This is a great tool for clubs to share their positive thoughts and ideas. For Example : Additional activities planned for the day.

Here is step-by-step instructions to share the links if required:

Step 1: Copy the Facebook URL ( one of the four below)

Step 2: Go to the home page of your Facebook Page and Click 'Create Post' .

Step 3: Paste the URL into the post you're creating.

Step 4: Write a comment at the top if you wish.

Step 5: Click 'Post'.

### World Croquet Posts include:

A Facebook Banner  
An Event Advert  
A short promo video  
A long promo video

'Croquet NSW acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands of NSW on which we meet and enjoy croquet. We pay our respects to elders past and present.'

Examples can be found below :

### Facebook Posts:

<https://www.facebook.com/CroquetAus/posts/1339492413116222>

### Short Video:

<https://www.facebook.com/CroquetAus/posts/1339494346449362>

### Facebook Event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/439034797404746>

### Long Video:

<https://www.facebook.com/CroquetAus/posts/1339494346449362>

It is great to see so many Clubs already getting behind World Croquet Day with additional letterbox drops and radio interviews already planned in some States.

I appreciate your help in sharing this information and wish you all the best on WCD May the 1<sup>st</sup>

**Greg Bury, General Manager  
The Australian Croquet Academy**

### Board members

Chair: [Simon Cook](#)

Treasurer: [Steve Miles](#)

Secretary/Newsletter: [Kate McLoughlin](#)  
[Rosie Landrebe](#)

[Rik Mills](#)

Website: [croquet-nsw.org](http://croquet-nsw.org)

## BOARD UPDATE

### Fellow Players

Sadly, we have had to bid farewell to Kate Elliot who has left the Board for family reasons. I would like to thank Kate for her wise leadership and support, and her strong commitment to CNSW. She will be sorely missed.

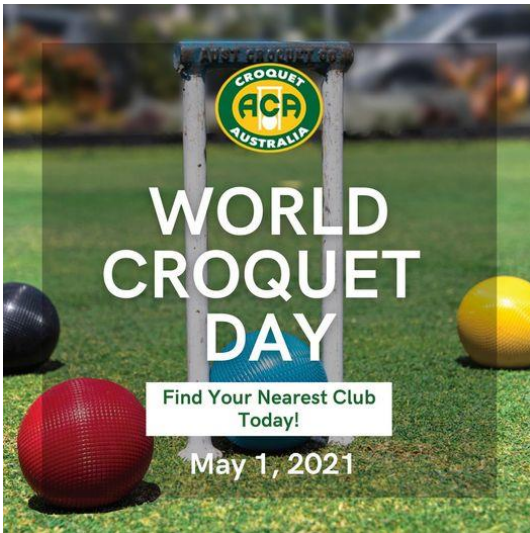
A reminder to all clubs that there will be a Zoom hook-up for delegates to answer questions on the draft Constitution at 6PM on Wednesday 14/4. Please make sure your Clubs are represented; this is your Constitution, and your active involvement is valued. And please don't forget to get your questions in beforehand to the [secretary@croquet-nsw.org](mailto:secretary@croquet-nsw.org).

The ACA held their AGM and elections on 29/3. The new ACA directors are Jim Nicholls, Barbara Northcott, Kerri-Ann Organ, Bernie Pfitzner, Alison Sharpe. They join the two remaining directors Max Kewish and Mary Marsland. I am sure we all wish them well in their future endeavours.

Also on the ACA agenda was a motion from CNSW regarding the use of pesticides. This came from one of our members with some alarming stories directly related to pesticide use and health risks. This motion called on the ACA to develop a national policy on the appropriate use of pesticide and hazardous chemicals in our clubs. The motion was carried unanimously so stay tuned for more information on this important topic.

That's all from me for this month. Stay well, stay safe, and I hope to see you on the lawns. Remember, it's all about the game!

### Simon Cook, Chair



## **FROM OUR NORTHERN CORRESPONDENT**

### **Tournaments come north.**

There have been over 300 CNSW tournaments in AC, GC and Ricochet since the last one was held in the north of the State. It has been far too long. But there will be four in the next few months, and entry numbers show what a thirst there is for tournaments in the north.

This year two tournaments will be held at Ballina, Lismore and Byron Bay. In 2018 and 2019 the NSW GC div 3 singles held in the south attracted 6 entries each year. In 2021, with over 3 months to go, already I have counted 27 players committed, without yet counting nearby clubs, Lismore and Casino.

For the doubles the figures for 2018 and 2019 were 8 and 9, so far there are 15 pairs committed.

Six lawns will be in use and three local councils will give their backing.

Why so many entries? Partly there is a longing in the north to play without the cost of getting to Sydney, but mainly because joint hosts Ballina and Ballina Cherry Street have been banging the publicity drum and blowing the publicity trumpet: loudly.

These figures are achieved even before potential competitors are vaccinated.

Club captains in the north are working hard to get their 9 and above GC handicappers into their first tournament.

Once these events are over we must hope Ballina people write up what they did for the rest of us to learn from their example.

### **CNSW Tournaments come north.**

But, as they say in the TV advertisements: Wait! There is more.

The CNSW Ricochet Championships will be in Sawtell, Doubles 24th-25th June and Singles 26th-28th June. Already there are 17 registrations. With the tournament run by Jenny Arnold; any event she runs is a delight to attend, and with Richard Hughes, the new State Coordinator for Ricochet, nearby, this will be another well attended northern event.

### **Border Closures**

While we all hope to be able to travel freely around Australia soon, Winter is coming and there is the likelihood that the odd case of Covid will see borders slammed shut for a few days at a time; snap lockdowns.

Queensland and WA are quickest to close the doors, but others will follow. Beware being caught the wrong side of the border at the wrong time.

The Tweed Heads/Gold Coast AC tournament in July attracted over 70 AC players in 2019, over 14 events and ten days. The numbers will be less in 2021, and the number of events reduced. Events will be in five locations, with some events in Coolangatta, Qld, and some in Tweed Heads, NSW, close to that much televised border. How do I ensure I can get to both events should Annastacia Palaszczuk close the border. I went looking for a large hotel with the front door in Queensland and the back door in NSW. I found it. Let the border close, I will be alright Annastacia.

### **Jinx or Genius?**

What is it about Coutts Crossing that stirs up Urunga's Geoff Chapman. In the Beryl Chamber's qualifier in 2020, Coutts Crossing's Peter Martin would have got to Tempe if Geoff had not put in successive 9

and 14 point (peg out) turns off a 10 handicap: his best ever performance. Simon Cook drives all the way to Orange with high hopes for their Autumn Carnival, only to come up against Geoff, who inflicted Simon's only loss. Is he a jinx on Coutts Crossing?

Probably not. The reality is that Geoff, one of the most charming and generous people you could meet, is also a leader of the new batch of very good players emerging from the north of the state. At Urunga he benefits from the coaching of Barb and John Piggott, and has improved by leaps and bounds since three years ago, when he consistently lost to Coutts Crossing's players.



If you see that big smile and twinkling eyes approaching, don't be fooled, he intends to beat you. Watch out for this star of the future.

### **When may we visit?**

It is a complaint heard frequently from grey croquet nomads, and from vacationing players. How do I find out whether I can play at your club?

Recently I planned to visit a city club to play. The club listed two phone numbers, both were unattended and asked me to leave a message. I did; they never called back. Another had its play days listed online, but they had changed. The day I turned up bright and early, the club was deserted. Numerous players have the same experience. So try a check on your current 'welcome'. Does your club answer the phone, do you make people aware of when they will be welcome to visit?

### **Losing a tied match**

Here is a lesson I will not forget, and a mistake I will not repeat. I was in a tight AC match in Toowoomba in the delightful Darling Downs Carnival. At the end of time I was one hoop ahead and had jawed what I hoped would be the winning point. My opponent had the last turn. He made one hoop and then made a long winning hoop to end the game. I was left with an easy hoop, but too late. I congratulated him, we picked up the balls and clips and as we walked off the referee approached and asked why we had stopped; the scores were tied. And they were; we had both miscalculated. Result: I lost 14-14. The tournament manager declared that rules say that once we have agreed the result and, shaken hands and walked off, that is the result. I pointed out that in these covid times we had not shaken hands, to no avail. Just to rub salt into the wound, the loss triggered my handicap up. Won't happen again.

### **Peter Martin (Coutts Crossing)**

## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST NATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR OF REFEREES - GATEBALL

The Australian Croquet Association, trading as Gateball Australia, calls for Expressions of Interest from members interested in being appointed as the National Coordinator of Referees – Gateball (NCRGb). Duties and responsibilities of the position are detailed in the Terms of Reference for National Coordinators of Referees, available from the ACA website at <https://croquet-australia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-CoordinatorsReferees-ToR.pdf> Further information can be obtained from the National Coordinator of Gateball, John Park on 0448 227 467 Expressions of Interest should be sent to Jim Clement, [secretary@croquet-australia.com.au](mailto:secretary@croquet-australia.com.au) by **31st May 2021**.

## NSW AC STATE COACH

The CNSW Board and the AC Selection Committee are looking for a suitable person to take on the role of AC State Coach. The State Coach shall: a) be preferably a Level 2 Accredited Coach or a person accepted by the Executive as having the equivalent experience and skills; b) coach the State Training Squad and the State Team; c) maintain close liaison with the Selection Committee, State Director of Coaching and recommend to the Executive that Development Coaches be appointed if considered beneficial; d) report to and perform other duties as requested by the Executive. For more information and to apply contact [Mike Hughes](#), Chair AC Selectors, **before 23 April 2021**.

## GC REFEREES

The following newly accredited Examining and Tutor Referees have been appointed: : Trevor Thornton - Examining Referee, Port Macquarie Club

David Scott - Tutor Referee, Ballina Cherry St & Lismore Clubs

Janine Crellin - Tutor Referee, Taree & Forster Clubs

Penelope Jude - Tutor Referee, Taree & Forster Clubs

An Examining Referee is able to accredit referees, a Tutor Referee is able to train and prepare referees for accreditation. CNSW currently has 10 Examining and 6 Tutor GC referees around the State. Check out the [Refereeing page](#) on the CNSW website.

## BURY BURIES RIVALS IN QUEENSLAND OPEN

There's few who give more to our sport than recently appointed National Croquet Academy boss Greg Bury. Many NSW players will have met Greg in recent months, while those who've been around the game a long time, speak glowingly of him.

It was therefore greeted with great cheer when Greg triumphed in the recent Queensland Open beating Laurie Simpson in the final.

The event was extremely well attended, with post-Covid enthusiasm obviously contributing to a great field of more 40 players. Queensland at the start of Autumn rarely disappoints, and gorgeous sunny days matched the big smiles out on the lawns at several clubs, with the finals being played at Two NSW players attended, David Hanbidge from Nowra and Greg Porter from Cherry Street Club at Balina. David lost just one game on his way through to the quarter finals, where he met eventual

winner Greg Bury. The match going to a thrilling hoop thirteen, where Greg eventually triumphed after a series of great clearances. Greg Porter performed well in the plate. Both NSW players thrilled at taking part in such a well run tournament

## ORANGE CROQUET CLUB 2021 AC AUTUMN CARNIVAL

The Orange Croquet Club held its first AC carnival for several years. The carnival was well supported by players, who travelled from Coutts Crossing, Urunga, Forster, Toronto, and Sydney to play. The weather for the four days was warm and fine, only a short shower one afternoon, though those setting the courts may have had varying thoughts on this.

Like all carnivals it could not be held without the



help and hard work of volunteers assisting with court setup, catering scoring/timekeeping and many other jobs required for the smooth running. A big thanks to all.

The carnival was divided into three blocks of six layers Shiraz, Merlot and Rosé. All games were played as advanced handicap.

The games while competitive were played in good spirit and were enjoyable to watch. When not playing players and their partners enjoyed the wonderful scenery, wineries, shopping, and eateries that Orange has to offer.

**Shiraz Block Winner:** Steve Miles,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Manfred Hoffman

**Merlot Block Winner:** Geoff Chapman, 2<sup>n</sup><sup>nd</sup>  
Simon Cook

**Rosé Block Winner:** Bronwyn McGrane  
2<sup>nd</sup> David McGrane



## EASTERN SEABOARD CONTINUES RAIN AND SHINE

With the cancellation of the Eire Cup, a number of AC players gathered in Sydney to play the Eastern Seaboard Tournament, with Mixed Doubles followed by Open Singles. The event began in sunshine, and was concluded in torrential rain at Tempe. Events were also held at Warrawee and Cammeray.

The last 2 days of the singles were almost called off, but for valiant efforts clearing the Tempe courts of water, and the valiant finalists who persisted in very trying conditions. It must be said the Tempe courts held up very well.

Alison Sharpe showed remarkable skill in defeating Robert Fletcher to be victorious over Callum Hyland in the final. Well done all competitors, and to Tournament Managers and Refs!



## LISMORE CROQUET CLUB 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Our heritage listed Club house was officially opened on 21 September 1931. Its history is a little quirky and an interesting one. The plaque on the Clubhouse wall indicates that it was opened by Lady Game, the wife of the then NSW Governor. However, according to media sources, Lady Game was ill at the time and unable to attend. There seems to be no record of the person who took Lady Game's place. So, it has been assumed that the official opening was actually carried out by the State Governor himself, Sir Phillip Game!

What preceded the opening was a great deal of hard work for almost 3 years from November 1928 when a ladies Croquet Club was established by Lismore Council. The rough, virtually untouched land required many hours, days, months and years of work. Eventually, lawns were established, fences and shelters erected and equipment purchased. All this was achieved by what must have been a very determined and stoic group of ladies interested in playing the game of croquet. The aim was to provide an opportunity for affordable healthy exercise which in turn extended one's life span! Back in the day, the Club's colours were black and gold, but from a few old photos it appears that most ladies dressed in calf or ankle length white dresses. Proper play for the ladies was normally side style i.e. standing just behind the ball, holding the mallet on the left or right side of the body and striking the ball.

To mark the milestone anniversary, four days of croquet celebrations will be held this coming September. Club members will compete in special games of Golf Croquet and Ricochet with finals being played on the third day. The special events will culminate in a party atmosphere on the fourth day. That day will be a Friendship day when members

from the other 5 Northern Rivers Croquet Clubs will be invited for a day of fellowship, fun, food, first class hospitality in an all round festive atmosphere. The other 5 Club's in the Northern Rivers region are: Byron Bay, Ballina Cherry Street, Ballina, Alstonville and Casino.

Over the period of the celebrations there will be some prominent local identities involved. The State Member for Lismore, Janelle Saffin and the Federal Member for Page, Kevin Hogan will be presenting awards. Also, the Mayor of Lismore, currently Vanessa Ekins will cut the birthday cake on the final day.



It's going to be fantastic!

### Phyllis Waters, Lismore Croquet Club



Miss Nancy Ross (in the absence of the Mayress), hitting off the first ball at the opening of the Lismore croquet lawn on Saturday afternoon. From left to right: Mrs. L. M. Gordon (captain), Mrs. C. A. Munro (secretary), Miss Ross, Mrs. C. McKinnell (president), Mrs. J. McCredie (treasurer), Mrs. J. Wilson (club member).

## TOURNAMENTS COMING UP

**Australian Golf Croquet Doubles and Singles, 8-18 May**, Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea, **entries close 29 April**.

**NSW Open Men's AC Singles**, 30 April – 2 May, Tempe, entries close 23 April

**AC Bronze Singles (handicap 14+)**, 26-29 April, Killara, entries close 23 April

**AC Gold Singles (hcap 5-8)**, 4-7 May, Jamberoo, entries close 23 April

**AC Silver Singles (hcap 9-12)**, 11-14 May, Cammeray, entries close 30 April

**NSW Gateball Championships**, 21-23 May, Toronto, entries close 14 May.

Check out the [Events](#) tab on the CNSW website.

## WINNERS ARE GRINNERS

Congratulations to **Alison Sharpe (Killara)** and **Tim Murphy (Canberra)** winners from Tricia Devlin (Castlemaine, Vic) and Callum Hyland (Sandy Bay, Tas) in the **Eastern Seaboard AC Open Mixed Doubles**, 16-17 Mar, Tempe.

Congratulations to **Alison Sharpe (Killara)**, winner of the **Eastern Seaboard AC Open Singles**, 18-21 Mar, Tempe, from **Callum Hyland (Sandy Bay, Tas)**.

Congratulations to **Peter Landrebe (Camberay)** winner of the **NSW GC Men's Singles**, 26-29 Mar, Tempe, from **David Hanbidge (Nowra)**.

Check [Croquet Scores](#) for more results

## REGISTERING FOR A COMPETITION

All CNSW Club members can enter competitions online, and are asked to update their details, eg their current handicap.

If you are a member of a Croquet NSW affiliated club, you can sign into the website database to visit the **Members Area**, to keep your own details up to date, to register online for CNSW events, and to list coaches and referees with their contact details.

Your club secretary must have entered your email address into the database for you to be able to sign in.

To sign in:

1. Select the **Sign In** tab in the top right hand corner of the CNSW web page and do steps 2-5 if you do not yet have a password (or have forgotten it).
2. Enter your email address as the Username.
3. Press the Sign In button, which will issue the message "Sign In failed".
4. Press the Send Password button, which will send your password to your email inbox.
5. Open your email to receive the CNSW Website Sign In message containing your password.
6. In the Sign In page, enter your email address as the Username, your password as the Password, and press the Sign In button to see:

<https://www.croquet-nsw.org/memberSignInHelp.html>

