NEWSLETTER

April 2022



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CROQUET NSW DISCUSSION FORUM

All players are invited to attend the Croquet NSW Forum to be held 5.30 – 6.30pm, Tuesday 26 April via ZOOM. The Forum will include a focus on Recruitment and Membership, including an update from Greg Bury with some Recruitment and Membership tools. This will be an opportunity for CNSW Clubs and their members to hear from, and ask questions of, the CNSW Board. If you have any specific issues that you'd like the Board to address at the Forum please provide a brief paper outlining the issue(s) to secretary@croquet-nsw.org by 19 April 2022. The ZOOM meeting link and Agenda will be sent to Club Secretaries around 20 April 2022.

CHANGES TO COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR CNSW TOURNAMENTS

Clubs may have noticed changes to CNSW COVID-19 guidelines on the CNSW website. As a result of recent experience CNSW no longer requires players to be double vaccinated and has dropped the advice to have a negative RAT test before attending. However, you must not play if you have COVID-19 symptoms or have been advised to self-isolate. These changes recognise the different environment that has emerged with the Omicron variant. In particular: -

- 1. Infection comes from those carrying the disease. The risk is highest for close contacts. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated people can be infected and the largest number of infections is amongst vaccinated people.
- 2. A positive RAT test indicates that you have COVID-19. A negative RAT test after a positive test can indicate that you have recovered. A negative RAT test on its own does not indicate that you do not have COVID-19 as you can be infectious for two days without producing a positive RAT test.

It is important to stop infection from people who have the disease. The best way to do this is to have people stay away from events if they have symptoms of the disease or have an elevated risk of contracting COVID-19. Relying on vaccination status and negative RAT tests has sent a mixed message where players have played when they should not have.

Players are responsible for determining whether they should play, much like players need to declare when they commit a fault when playing croquet. However, event managers also have the right to exclude players who are exhibiting symptoms and everyone should support a manger who decides to do this.

Fortunately, croquet is played outdoors where infections risks are lower. Frequent sanitisation and maintaining social distancing are important risk reduction measures as well.

Clubs may impose additional requirements and this may affect the ability of players to participate in CNSW events held at a club venue. Clubs who choose to exclude unvaccinated players should be mindful that there is no government guideline to support this. The NSW government does support restricting access for those who are unwell or required to self-isolate.

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 and emerging

BOARD MEMBERS

Chair: Kate McLoughlin Deputy Chair: Rik Mills Treasurer: Steve Miles Secretary: David Scott

Projects & Grants: Rosie Landrebe

Newsletter: Liz Friend

newsletter@croquet-nsw.org Board member: Ray Chapman

Website: https://croquet-nsw.org

Croquet NSW Facebook page

FROM THE BOARD

NSW was excited to host the 2022 Australian Men's & Women's Singles Association Croquet Championships and the interstate ACA Eire Cup after the three events were cancelled in 2021. A huge thank you to the organising committee headed by David Stanton, participating venues of Cammeray, Chatswood, Royal Sydney, Warrawee and Tempe, and all the venue managers and host of volunteers.

We're even more excited that our **2022 Eire Cup team** won the coveted event. Congratulations to all team members: Gareth Denyer (Team Manager), Peter Landrebe (Vice Captain) and remaining players Jim Nicholls, Stephen Richards, Tim Murphy, Alison Sharpe, Rosie Landrebe, Kerri-Ann Organ, Di Scott and Jean Pack.



L:R Pete Landrebe, Gareth Denyer, Di Scott, Kate McLoughlin, Alison Sharpe, Jean Pack, Tim Murphy, Kerri-Ann Organ, Jim Nicholls, Stephen Richards (Rosie Landrebe not present) at Government House Reception for players & volunteers

R:L Our Patron, Her Excellency the Honorable Margaret Beazley AC QC and Mr Dennis Wilson, hosts at the Government House Reception, and Wade Hart (Qld) Team members also excelled in the Men's & Women's Singles events preceding the Eire Cup with Alison Sharpe winning the 2022 Australian Women's AC Singles, Rosie Landrebe runner up and Peter Landrebe runner up in the 2022 Australian Men's AC Singles. Congratulations Alison, Rosie & Peter.

Gareth Denyer & Peter Landrebe organised livestreaming, via VisionTV, for the finals of the Men's & Women's Singles and 3 days of the Eire Cup played at Royal Sydney.



If you missed watching live you can still view the replays:

Men's Singles Championship of Australia Women's Singles Championship of Australia (vimeo.com)

<u>Day 1 - Eire Cup (Interstate Cup Team Competition) (vimeo.com)</u> – NSW v SA

Day 2 - Eire Cup (Interstate Cup Team Competition) (vimeo.com) - VIC v SA

Day 3 - Eire Cup (Interstate Cup Team Competition) (vimeo.com) - NSW v VIC

World Croquet Day will be celebrated during the first weekend in May 2022. Be sure to send a report on how your club celebrates to secretary@croquet-nsw.org for possible inclusion in the CNSW Newsletter, website or Facebook page.

(From the Board, continued)

Most of you will have been frustrated by the disruption to play from rain. That disruption is minor compared to some clubs who have been devastated from resultant flooding with Lismore perhaps being the standout after their clubhouse was nearly fully submerged in late February 2022. Following many days of clean-up Lismore members had been looking to the future, although still awaiting a declaration of whether their clubhouse would be habitable and, if so, when. A short three weeks later and the Lismore clubhouse was again inundated with flood water.

The clean-up at Lismore begins again with the costs to restore increasing. If you would like to help Lismore or any other club affected by the 2022 floods, then please visit the Croquet Australia Disaster Relief Program page for further information. https://croquet-australia.com.au/2022/03/11/aca-disaster-relief-program/

The CNSW Board have three broad goals for 2022. Namely, Building Membership, Communications and Finance & Governance. All goals are aimed at strengthening croquet in NSW with each Board member participating in the working party for one or more broad goals. If anyone in the CNSW community has a particular passion or skillset they think would benefit any of these goals please email secretary@croquet-nsw.org.

If you are over 65 years of age then you are eligible for another booster dose if your first booster was 4 months ago - further information available here https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/getting-your-vaccination/booster-doses

David Scott, Secretary, Croquet NSW



Kate McLoughlin, Chair CNSW

CROQUET AUSTRALIA'S 73RD AGM AND DISCUSSION FORUM

Croquet Australia held its AGM in Sydney at the Concordia Club on Saturday 19 March. The Annual Report and Financial Reports were tabled. Copies are on the <u>ACA website</u> Board Elections were held: Mary Marsland, Alison Sharpe and Bernie Pfitzner did not stand for reelection; Max Kewish (WA) was re-elected and Pat Habner (Qld) was elected to the Board. The remaining Board members are Jim Nicholls (Chair), Kerri-Ann Organ, Barbara Northcote and Kah Yang Loke.

A motion was raised to consider having a member from each State on the Board, which was defeated.

Following the meeting a Discussion Forum was held where member States had raised a number of issues. Ray Chapman, Rik Mills and Kate McLoughlin attended from Croquet NSW.

- It was agreed there would be a review of the ACA insurance policy following concerns by South Australia;
- The timing of the collection of Affiliation fees is to be reviewed,
- The National Membership Incentive program proposed by Jim Nicholls to increase membership numbers by offering Clubs an incentive was agreed to by the delegates
- Concerns re Coaching and Academy matters raised by Croquet Association of Queensland were noted but not supported
- The CNSW proposal to raise lawn fees and official reimbursements for ACA events was supported by the Forum members

All forum topics were for discussion only, and any ongoing decisions are to be made by the ACA Board. CNSW is very supportive of the ACA proposal to grow membership numbers and will be looking to boost membership numbers in NSW over the coming year.

Croquet NSW Board members also attended a presentation on the Academy by Greg Bury. Board members will be testing the proposed ACA database over coming weeks.

Kate McLoughlin Chair, CNSW

Vale Clare Poole

On 14th March the Gateball community was greatly saddened to hear of the death of one of our highly regarded 'originals', Clare Poole.

Clare's involvement with Gateball commenced in the mid-1990s, following visits to Sydney and demonstrations of Gateball by Japanese and Korean players. Gateball became a regular weekly game at Clare's club, Epping.

In 1998, following an invitation from the World Gateball Union, the Australian Croquet

Association sent two teams to the Gateball World Championship in Hawaii. Clare was a captain of one of these teams. She also attended the 1999 President's Cup in Taiwan.

Clare's Epping players formed the backbone of a composite team which won the NSW championship at Maitland in 2014, the first time players from Greater Sydney had won the NSW Championships!

Even when her deteriorating mobility made active participation impossible, Clare never lost her keen interest in the game and the people who now enjoy it. She was there on the sideline giving advice and encouragement. She was held in high regard by those who knew her and will be greatly missed. Vale Clare.

Two comments on her impact on Gateball, not only in Australia but from overseas as well.



Clare (centre) at Maitland 2014

Keiichi Imagawa, Executive Director, World Gateball Union: I was deeply grieved to learn of the death of Ms. Clare Poole. I met her at Australian Championships 2000 in Sydney for the first time. She was nice, and we Japanese players loved her. With deepest sympathy.

Cass Hawkins, Lithgow Croquet Club: I will never forget my first Gateball Triples Competition, first competition away from home, at Jamberoo 2017 I think it was. Clare quietly came up to me after our first game (we had done badly) she had been watching (I couldn't get through gate one) and she whispered to me "Don't rush - you have 10 seconds, use them". What a special woman she was. What good advice for a panicky newbie! She will always be admired and remembered by me. Rest in peace Clare. I will forever admire you. For more information and further comments see https://gateball.com.au/wordpress/?p=7370

John Park.

CNSW TROPHY PRESENTATIONS

The CNSW trophy presentations to winners at the end of each event have commenced for 2022.

Trophies for all CNSW events at Tempe have been engraved and are awaiting presentations at the appropriate event. Clubs hosting CNSW trophy events should have already received their trophies as follows:

8-10 April – Canberra – GC Womens Singles

11-14 April - Killara - AC Bronze Singles

3-6 May – Chatswood – AC Gold Singles

10-13 May – Cammeray – AC Silver Singles

25-27 May – Canberra – Division 3 Doubles

27-29 May - Canberra - Division 3 Singles

6-8 June – Cammeray – Platinum Singles

16-17 June – Nowra – GC Handicap Doubles

18-20 June – Jamberoo – GC Handicap Singles

Trophies for the CNSW Division 2 Doubles and Singles events scheduled for Ballina/Byron Bay/Lismore 13-17 July are yet to be organised.

Trophies for both the CNSW Ricochet Singles and Doubles scheduled for Sawtell 25-29 June will be returned by the previous winners.

CNSW trophy event winners will be presented with the appropriate trophy at the conclusion of each event.

The winner can take the trophy home or proudly display it at their croquet club.

Engraving costs will be met by CNSW and the trophy can remain with the winner until contacted by CNSW to arrange its return. Ray Chapman, CNSW Board Member

LISMORE FLOODS AGAIN

In late March, Lismore residents went through their second major flood in a month.

On 28 February the devastating first flood peaked at 14.4 metres, fully two metres higher than the previous record of 12.27 metres in 1954, and well above the town's 10-metre-high levee wall, constructed in 2005. Four people died, with 2,000 homes destroyed or unliveable of the city's 19,000 homes.

Even as Lismore and Northern Rivers' residents struggled to recover from the first flood, the floods were coming again. On 29 March more heavy rain began falling into the soaked catchment area feeding into Wilsons River.

Once again, Lismore's traumatised community had to evacuate, with predictions of floods of 10.6 metres. The flood only reached 9.7 metres. But then a further 279mm of rain fell between 9am Tuesday and 6am Wednesday 30 March with an 11-metre flood predicted. Once again, residents had to evacuate. The river peaked at just under 11 metres, high enough to get over the levee wall and flood the CBD and surrounding areas.

The Lismore mayor, Steve Kriegs, stated "I have not lost my house, I lost that 4 weeks ago. All my belongings are gone. What emotions are you supposed to feel other than exhaustion"?

Another resident summed it up as follows. "Residents are back in the evacuation centres. The look on their faces is shock and trauma. I can't do this again, it's too hard. It's very distressing and people are tired. They have not slept for five weeks. There is stoicism in some people but under that brave face there is a cracking and splintering of confidence and will."

Lismore will rise again. That is the nature of country people. They continue to rise against adversity. It will be a difficult and challenging process which will take some time and assistance from the State and Federal government. Ray Chapman, Ballina







Does anyone have photos of the **Greenfield Croquet Club** in Albury?

There has been an inquiry from a researcher at the Albury Library Museum about the Greenfield Club, previously known as the **Glenly Croquet Club**. The Museum has an old sign (depicted here) and wish to display it, along with the history and particularly any photos.

If you can assist, please contact Genevieve Mott, Email gen2650@gmail.com

THE 2022 EIRE CUP CAMPAIGN - A NEWBIE'S PERSPECTIVE



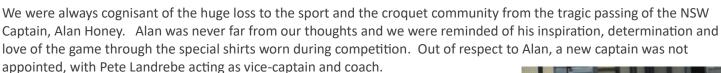
This was my first Eire Cup campaign - albeit only as Manager but I wanted to relay something of experience as a way of thanking the team for giving me a peep into the realm of elite competition, camaraderie and sporting achievement.

So, this is what it is all about - one of longest running inter-state tournaments and surely one

of the finest trophies. Originally awarded to the Australian Croquet Team after their victory in a series of test matches in Ireland in 1937, and now reinstalled in pride of place on the NSW mantlepiece for the 11th time.

From our first get together as a team back in January, the seriousness of the intent to win the Eire Cup was palpable. The commitment of the team to the goal, and their willingness

to learn from, teach and support each other was awe-inspiring.





Pete is truly the *Professor of Croquet* and his strategic and tactical prowess was executed to devastating effect during the competition, particularly in the way he choreographed the doubles pairings - something which allowed NSW to take an unprecedented 4-0 lead into the final day's play against the Victorians. One of the lessons I learnt about this competition was that although there is much swashbuckling on the show lawns as the minus players and MacRobertson Shield contenders battle out triple peels and pegged out endings, the Eire Cup is actually lost and won on the outer lawns towards the end of the day. What makes the pressure even more intense for the players concerned is that the

higher profile games tend to finish earlier, causing the spectator numbers to swell as every team, official, and visitor assembles on the sidelines. Thankfully for NSW, players like Jean Pack (pictured) were able to respond to the challenge and achieve vital wins to keep us on course.



A tradition at the end of each day is a team debrief, with a round of awards and accolades to players that achieved something special. A keenly sought out trophy is the carrot - initially awarded by the Manager (for criteria at their discretion!). This picture shows a proud Kerri-Ann Organ who received the first carrot of the

Ann Organ who received the first carrot of the campaign for bravely taking responsibility to finish a tight doubles match after her partner, Jim Nicholls, had crafted the perfect leave. Stephen Richards introduced two

other awards - firstly reinstating the "Om" award for calmness under duress, then unveiling the "Cowboy" award for perseverance and determination. These awards are a great way of building team spirit and pumping everyone up after a hard day's play. Throughout the whole tournament, the weather threatened to create mayhem. On the first day's play at Royal Sydney Golf Club, the rain was so intense that games were postponed as the water pooled on the lawns. However, the ground staff at RSGC are dedicated and well-resourced and within minutes super-soppers were out in force to clear the lake - each run from one end to the other taking some 50 L - so over 1000 L from one pass.







Now is a good time to mention how lucky we were to run half of the event at RSGC. The amazing army of ground staff, the sublime lawns, general aura of tradition, and expert management from Alix Verge provided a unique experience for all the players. In so many ways it made us appreciate the incredible work that John Stokes and his team did at Tempe – delivering the same level of smooth operation and convivial atmosphere with a fraction of the resources.

One innovation at this year's Eire Cup was live-streaming. We were lucky to have several people put their hands up to share the commentary load (even including some of the NSW players once their games had finished!), but none contributed more than Peter Freer and Kate McLoughlin. They resolutely provided an unwavering narrative to each day's events despite being huddled under tarpaulins as the wind and rain battered them from every angle.

In the end, it all came down, as expected, to the last Match between NSW and VIC. The two teams are in the ascendancy in the current era and the rivalry is fierce yet respectful. Here below are both teams just before the start of play, posing next to the cup... such a shame the VICs didn't bring an 'away' strip! As students of this year's event will know, the Victorians were never able to claw back the perfect start by NSW in the doubles, although they did win the first round of singles and it was not until 6 pm that the result was sealed in NSW's favour.

Gareth Denyer, Team Manager, Eire Cup



Stephen Howes referees at Tempe, overseeing a shot from Tim Murphy and closely watched by Alison Sharpe



Winners (NSW) and Runners-up (Victoria)



The Team celebrates at the ACA Presentation Dinner at Tempe

SUCCESSFUL "COME & TRY" CLUB EVENTS

Cooks River Croquet Club is trying to increase membership of the club and does this through regular Saturday 'Come and Try' afternoons hosted by Janett Midgley. Also, the Club holds special events such as one during Seniors Week and others by arranging Come and Try events with local clubs and organisations e.g. the Cooks River Valley Association and the Marrickville Golf Club - both of these organisations have memberships over 500+ people.

The club now uses the *Eventbrite* website for booking the Come and Try events. This idea came about through liaison with the local council (IWC) that made the suggestion late last year when discussing Seniors Week and provided advice on how best to promote the event.

The Seniors Week promotion was listed on the Innerwest Council website under the heading "What's On" and as part of the special Seniors Week promotion by the LGA. It was found that this is a wonderful way to reach local people and let them know about the club. The Club also had an article in a Seniors Week publication by the Innerwest Council which was distributed to Council facilities such as libraries etc.

Saturday Come and Try Statistics. The Club collates statistics on the number of participants and the average is around ten each time, with some being trainee associate members who pay \$65 for 6 lessons and then decide if they wish to join the club as full members. 36 people registered for our Seniors Week event. Two time slots were available and a Devonshire Tea was organised between the two events by Jill Sullivan. Unfortunately, the weather was not their friend, however it was decided to go ahead with the event and 7 brave souls attended and two have signed up to be Trainees.

Marrickville Croquet Club hosted a very successful Come and Try Croquet morning session on 31 March as part of NSW Seniors Festival. The Club advertised the event on the NSW Seniors Festival website, InnerWest Council's Seniors Festival website and through Facebook and their members. They had 11 people interested and only one couldn't make it due to COVID. Members organised an amazing spread of homemade sandwiches, cakes and sweets, along with tea and coffee for a memorable morning tea which gave everyone an opportunity to chat and learn about the club.

Ten members assisted with the morning on catering duty and explaining the intricacies of croquet. They had five stations which the participants moved through - a mini game, hoop practice, clearing balls, placement in concentric circles and a bagatelle set which has been in the club for some years. Having so many club members meant that most participants received close to individual tuition. Most of the participants have expressed an interest in coming back for lessons in the future. Both the participants and members had a wonderful morning. Judy Tonkin, Secretary







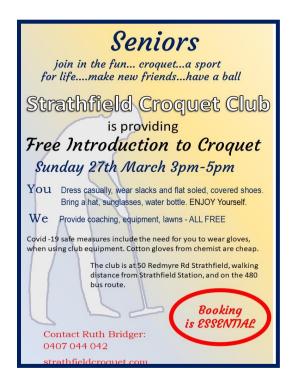


Strathfield Croquet Club's contribution to Strathfield Council's Seniors Week events was "2022 Intro to Croquet for Seniors - A Sport for Life", held on the afternoon of Sunday 27 March. What an amazingly on/off weather pattern it was. Out of the 10 folk who initially registered to attend the two-hour

session (3pm-5pm), seven bravely turned up. A couple who postponed, still wanted to experience croquet but on a drier day. Fair enough! I think our 'Seniors' were fed up being couped up inside their homes. It was a chance to break out, and do something physical, and it paid off for them!

SCC Coaches & volunteers (Ruth, Peter, Cheryl and Alan) felt the same uncertainty as the attendees. However, the weather held off for a sufficient amount of time for all new players to enjoy themselves, learn some new skills in our Target Sport, and enjoy the friendly rivalry. Then the heavens opened again, so we switched our focus to indoor activities ... time for a cup of tea/coffee, and all viewing our website videos: 'Welcome to Strathfield Croquet Club', and 'The Evolution of Croquet' (all up, 15 minutes). This part of the session was ably handled by Peter.

We finished with a Q &A Session, and several folks showed interest in further lessons. For one attendee, the session was a time to refresh her knowledge and past experience, as she had (just before Covid closed Sydney down) previously completed the U3A Course *A Taste of Croquet*, we conducted last year. That program gave participants a smorgasbord experience of our games (GC, RC and GB), and was a hit! SCC Head Coach: Ruth Bridger (27 March 2022)





Nelson Bay Croquet Club hosted a very successful Come & Try Day on 20 March. For many years Nelson Bay was only one of two croquet clubs in the top 10 largest clubs in NSW, based on membership numbers, to have only two courts. Given the ratio of members to courts, the Club did little to actively promote membership, although membership numbers continued to gradually increase based largely on word of mouth. The completion of two additional courts in early 2020 meant that the Club was in a position to actively recruit members, though the COVID pandemic delayed any immediate meaningful efforts. To support the planned effort, the Club applied for a Port Stephens Council Community Event Development Fund, a program focussed on events that create a social outcome for the Port Stephens community and assessed on how they bring people together to celebrate, learn, share experiences and grow new opportunities.

The rationale for the application was that older age groups in the community need appropriate opportunities for physical exercise and social interaction to maintain mental health and well-being croquet provides a perfect solution, involving both physical and mental skills. The proposed Come-and-Try and coaching event would increase awareness in the community of the benefits of playing croquet.

The application was successful and the \$3,000 awarded supported advertising in local papers plus the printing of flyers: two ads in the free

papers - Port Stephens Examiner \$800 and two ads in the News of the Area \$360, and 2,000 flyers \$260. The remainder of the grant was spent on catering, equipment and administration. The flyers were distributed through local stores and businesses as well as at two days of a free community space at the Salamander Shopping Centre (a table and chairs resourced by Club volunteers).

Following a COVID cancellation in November 2021, the Come-and-Try Day was eventually held on Sunday 20 March 2022. The event was advertised to include a free sausage sizzle to attract participants. The previous Come-and-Try Day had been held many years ago and recollections of the event were hazy, though an attendance of between 15 and 20 people was the best guess. This determined that under 20 participants would be a failure and that 25 to 30 would be a modest success – we were over the moon when 65 people showed-up at the gates and 25 have already signed-up for further lessons.

For other clubs considering initiatives to increase membership, it is important to note that, although played by all age groups, croquet is a game that appeals particularly to older age groups and the Nelson Bay area of the Port Stephens LGA has a higher proportion of elderly people than other areas of NSW; in 2016, the estimated resident population of this area aged 55 years and over was 43% of the population, considerably greater that the corresponding percentage for Australia at 26%. In other words, Nelson Bay Croquet Club has a large local population that are potential croquet players. David Wilson, President



CNSW AFFILIATION PAYMENTS

The half yearly affiliation invoice has been issued to clubs. Invoicing each six months simplifies administration and saves clubs the trouble of paying affiliation as each new member joins. The current affiliation invoice is based on club data as recorded on the CNSW website as at 31 March. For adult playing members the fees are \$25 each six months with \$32 going to Croquet Australia and \$18 to CNSW each year. CNSW supports competitors, coaches and referees as well as providing member insurance and has been successful in receiving government grants for clubs.

WANTED - CLUBS TO HOST CNSW EVENTS 2022

GC Gold Brooch Doubles (Handicap 0-4 & 5-9) 15-17 August

AC Gold Brooch Singles (Handicap 3-6) 29-31 August

AC Silver Brooch Singles (Handicap 7-10) 5-7 September

(NB. to ensure sufficient entries, it would be preferred if the AC events were hosted in or around the Sydney Metro Area) Please email your Club's interest to host an event to: tournaments@croquet-nsw.org

Is your club interested in hosting the GC Division 1 Pennants Finals?

Entries close for the Division 1 competition on 1 September 2022.

TOURNAMENTS COMING UP:

- (AC) Men's Singles Championship 29 April 1 May, Tempe. Entries close 22 April
- (AC) Gold Singles 3-6 May, Chatswood. Entries close 22 April
- (AC) Beryl Chambers 4-6 May, Urunga. Entries close 22 April
- (AC) Silver Singles 10-13 May, Cammeray. Entries close 29 April
- (GC) Open Singles 20-23 May, Tempe. Entries close 13 May
- (GC) Division 3 Doubles 25-26 May, Canberra. Entries close 13 May
- (GC) Division 3 Singles 27-29 May, Canberra. Entries close 13 May
- (AC) Open Women's Singles 27-29 May, Tempe. Entries close 20 May

Check out the Events tab on the CNSW website.

BOOKING A LAWN AT TEMPE

https://cooksrivercroquetclub.com/

