



CROQUET NSW Inc

ABN 95 174 213 987

Patron: His Excellency General The Honorable David Hurley AC DCS (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales

MEMBER MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear Member,

The Board met on Sunday 10th December unfortunately not stronger in numbers as the message from Nerida in December newsletter suggested, but diminished to only four Directors (see the website for the remaining Directors profiles). Tricia Vierra has resigned having moved to the Apple Isle and Nerida Taylor has needed to prioritise other matters in her life. On behalf of the croquet community in NSW & the ACT we wish them both the very best and thank them for their contributions while on the Board.

After spending a few moments reflecting on the positive atmosphere at the Annual Presentation lunch of the previous day (members who are on Facebook can see some photos on the CNSW Facebook page these will also go onto the website in due course) we turned our mind to the priorities for the remainder of 2017/18.

A key priority of course is to recruit/cajole others to fill at least one of the three casual vacancies on the Board. Clearly with diminished numbers the capacity of the current Board to administer CNSW and support and progress key pieces of work and initiatives is much more limited.

The priorities for the Board, which align with the Strategic Plan (1/1/2017 to 31/12/2019) are:

- Finalise the establishment of an Organising Committee for the GC ISS which CNSW is hosting in the Hunter region in September 2018.
- Finalisation of a position regarding the facilities at Tempe, we hope Nerida will continue to lead this work.
- Development of a bright new logo for CNSW for which the Board has approved expenditure, thank you to the Visual Identity Working Group for their work on this.
- Establishment of a Player Pathways program to support the development of players at all levels. The Board has approved expenditure to support this program and is hopeful of receiving a grant from the Office of Sport to offset some of its cost. This was an initiative of Nerida and we hope she will continue to be involved.
- Further embed and support the role of the Regional Co-ordinators. We have had some great feedback from a couple of the co-coordinators who have been visiting clubs already, so well done! There is also a great article by Peter Martin in the March edition of the newsletter with some background on regionalisation. The Board intends approving expenditure to expand the role of the regions and has applied for a grant from the Office of Sport to offset some of its cost.
- To rework sections of the constitution so that the changes contemplated at the time of the AGM are implemented and there is a general tidying up some clauses. The Board expect to have a draft ready for the members to consider in the new year.
- Recruit and train a Complaints Officer/Handler and more Member Information Protection Officers (MPIOs).

In relation to this final point the Board discussed where concerns have been raised around the complaints processes by some members. CNSW does not have a current Complaints Officer so dealing with concerns raised can be difficult. Complaints processes should be dealt with confidentially and the Board itself is required



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to remain impartial and independent from any such process. Members who have problems that they have not been able to resolve themselves at a local level may wish to contact a Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO). MPIOs, who undertake training through the NSW Office of Sport, provide information about the rights, responsibilities and options available to an individual making a complaint in sport. MPIOs are impartial and don't mediate or investigate complaints. Current CNSW members who are trained MPIOs are Barb Piggott and Jacky MacDonald and we hope to have more trained over the next 12 months. Please contact a Board member or MPIO if you want to know more about being an MPIO.

As always, we look to the membership to consider their capacity to step up for either a Board role or to support any of the activities currently underway, through the working groups and committees or for individual roles. If you have some experience or are keen to engage in the governance of CNSW or have some expertise that you can offer to support other CNSW activities please contact one of the current Directors or your Regional Coordinator to discuss.

All in all, there is a lot of work happening by the many members of CNSW who volunteer their time to contribute to croquet in NSW and the ACT in one way or another. The Board thanks you to you all for your contributions and Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2018.