



90th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

MONDAY 20TH – THURSDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2021

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!