

CROQUET NSW Inc.

# Newsletter

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MARCH 2012

## Another Successful Gala Day

Our croquet year was off to a very good start, with Croquet NSW hosting a highly successful Gala Day at Tempe on February 24. Even though the temperature soared, as it so often does on Gala Day, and hats and sunscreen were de rigueur, everyone entered into the spirit of the day and really enjoyed themselves.

88 croquet players from 14 clubs, both metropolitan and country attended, and the variety of different coloured club shirts contrasting with regulation whites, the green lawns and the wonderful sunny day all combined to provide quite a spectacle. The country clubs attending were Blue Mountains, Branxton, EDSACC, Hazelbrook, Jamberoo, Maitland and Nowra, with Eastwood, Hurstville, Killara, Port Hacking, Sutherland, Strathfield and Sydney clubs making up the metropolitan contingent.

14 different mallet games, including Bagatelle, The Clock, The Ladder, Dogs Hind Leg and Eggs in the Basket. Players could also hone their skills at Golf Croquet, Corner to Corner, Hoop Running, Gateball, a Roquet game and Jamberoo's Jump Shot Roo Game.

Despite the heat, there were queues for all games throughout the morning and organisers did a great job keeping things moving. One game of golf croquet was completed very quickly; Ian Subbi from Jamberoo and Terry Abbott from Eastwood ran four hoops in five

minutes to win their game. Talk about speedy!

From the 14 clubs attending Hurstville had 13 members, Jamberoo 12 and Hazelbrook and Port Hacking each had 11. Some of the Hazelbrook people came in a mini bus and said that it was well worth the effort, they had a great time.

This year, for the first time, attendees were asked to fill in a survey to gauge peoples' reactions to the format of the day, and if they thought there were any improvements that could be made. It will be interesting to see the results.

The Concordia Club kindly allowed us to use their veranda and some of their inside tables for lunch and the presentation of prizes. After the presentation and raffle draw, one final game was contested – the Roquet – this was the first time there has been an organised game after lunch and quite a few people stayed on for it.

All in all it was a terrific day. An opportunity to meet old friends and make some new ones and enjoy a 'different' sort of croquet. Maybe next year it will be even bigger and better.

*Katherine Love  
Hurstville Club*



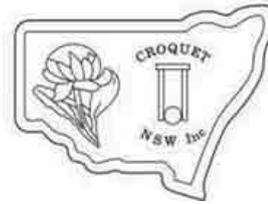
*A strong contingent from Hazelbrook Club brought a splash of colour to the day!*

*Jamberoo Club provided some welcome shade for the Roo jump trainer*



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## From the President:

Congratulations to the eleven NSW players selected to compete in the GC President's Tens to be held in Melbourne in February. Those chosen are John Levick, Joe Dimech, Trevor Black, Peter Smith, Peter Freer, Martyn Prins, Steven Dilley (Jnr), Pam Gentle, Jacky McDonald, Ron Johnstone and Barb Piggott. This is a prestigious tournament with participants chosen based on their World and Australian rankings. Peter Landrebe, Rosemary Graham, Mike Jenner, John Compton and Tony Hall were unavailable.

Congratulations to the NSW players chosen to represent Australia at the AC World Open Champions to be held in Adelaide. Well-done and best wishes to Peter Landrebe, Stephen Richards, Jim Nicholls, Trevor Bassett, Tim Murphy, Alan Walsh, Ken Edwards, Charlotte Morgan and Rosemary Graham. Claire Bassett was unavailable. This constitutes one-third of the Australian entries.

Three CNSW events (at this stage) will be held outside Tempe in 2012. The GC Division 2 Doubles and Singles will be held at Nowra CC from 19 to 23 April while the GC Division 3 competitions will be held at Jamberoo at the same time. Entry forms are available at CNSW website. The NSW Handicap Doubles and Singles will be hosted by Ballina Cherry Street with games to be played at both Ballina and Byron Bay lawns. This competition commences on the 15 September with the doubles concluding on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the singles being played from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. This is a great excuse for a North Coast Holiday. As this is outside school holidays, unit accommodation can be obtained at reasonable rates. For further information contact Jan Copeland on 6686 8784.

Have you organised your pennants teams yet? The closing date, March 27, for entries in NSW State Pennants is fast approaching. Pennants commence on 16 April. Your Club's participation will ensure the continued success of these competitions.

Vice President Roger Evans has set up the CNSW Email List for croquet players in NSW to exchange ideas and for information to be distributed. For further information see the CNSW website and p. 13 of this Newsletter. We trust that all will use the site constructively. The revised Let's Try Croquet brochure is now completed and available from the CNSW website. Thanks to Brenda Evans for the work she put into the brochure and to Peter Smith for the combined teams photograph.

I thank David Archer, CNSW Webmaster, for the time and work that he has put into the CNSW website to make it more user-friendly. The most important change is the direct link from the website to the CNSW and Club Calendar of events.

*John Compton*

## From the Editor:

It seems only yesterday that we were rejoicing in the start of another year and here we are with two months of the new year already over. I cannot proceed further with this column without reference to my predecessor as editor of this Newsletter, John Hanscomb. John did such a lot of work for CNSW, and he established the current format of this publication. He continued to take interest in its publication, as well as details contained in the Yearbook (another task I took over from him) and was always ready to offer advice. John's legacy to CNSW goes far beyond these two publications and I am sure many of you will know and recognise just what he did over the many years in which he was actively involved in working for CNSW.

As our country continues to be deluged on and off, our thoughts are with those in the croquet family whose lives have been affected by the floods on a more personal level. We hope that our clubs around the country have not suffered too much damage or hardship.

The March Newsletter is always a bit hard to fill, but this year with the deadline fast approaching and too many pages to fill, the edition has been reduced. I hope that this is not going to be the pattern of other issues in 2012 but, as I keep saying, it is up to clubs to send in the articles that will make our Newsletter continue to be of interest to all. I am sure that as our year officially gets underway there will be much for clubs to report on and share with all of the NSW Croquet family.

Gala Day saw a great group of people travel to Tempe to officially start the croquet year. Ironically, we had changed the date to later in February than usual to be able to have cooler weather. However, our efforts were thwarted when one of the very few, very hot days of this strange summer greeted us! Some clubs were prepared with umbrellas and other means of providing shade. This year we conducted a survey to sound out how members see this day and in what way it can be improved to make it a celebration for the CNSW family. We thank Roger Evans for preparing the survey and for his analysis of the results (shown on the back page).

*Wendy Fothergill*

*Closing Date June Issue: Wednesday 23 May*



[newsletter@croquet-nsw.org](mailto:newsletter@croquet-nsw.org)

## Maitland Heritage Association Tournament

Maitland Croquet Club's annual Association Tournament was held on the 18, 19 and 20th of November 2011. Generous sponsorship from **THE MAITLAND MUTUAL BUILDING SOCIETY** enabled the club to provide excellent prizes and refreshments for all competitors.

Block A saw some exceptional croquet played by Martyn Prins, Steve Harden, John Levick, John Deeves, Larry Bryant and Trevor Black. Tamworth player Steve Harden and Maitland's Trevor Black each had four wins and an equal net. Trevor secured first place with a win over Steve.

In Block B Judy Squelch from Newcastle pegged out on three occasions but a loss to Peter Smith (Maitland) allowed "One Shot Pete", who won three games by a single shot, to complete the Carnival undefeated and pocket the first prize. Strong opposition was offered by Kurt Beck, Alan Pearson, Killara's Pat Goldrick and Bob "The Nightwatchman" Hokin (Taree).

Block C was closely contested with Bill Munns (Toronto) and Maitland's John Purnell and Steve Thornton finishing with 4 wins each. On a count back Steve Thornton edged out Bill for victory. It was great to have Glenda Chaplyn (Strathfield) and Toronto's Ian Lucas and Glen Coulton providing strong opposition in this block.

Thank you to all at Maitland Club who contributed to the success of this carnival, and especially to the unsung heroes of every carnival, the referees, Joan Boyle, Margaret Thompson, Pam Ingham and Fred Harvey. The undoubted highlight of the carnival was the spirit in which all games were played. Thank you to all competitors for your wonderful attitude towards the game and your fellow competitors.

Thank you for coming and we hope to see you all again in November next year.



*Referees certainly appear to lead an unhurried life if the relaxed Fred Harvey, chatting to Tamworth's Steve Harden, is any indication. Life goes on as usual in the background.*



*Peter Smith... (Winner Block B) sets up a long roll on lawn 4.*



*Martyn Prins, Trevor Black (eventual winner Block A), Steve Thornton and referee Joan Boyle enjoyed the weather, scenery and the competition.*

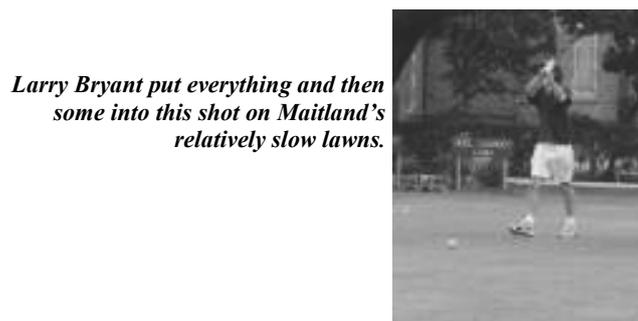


*Bob Hokin waits while John Levick attempts a hoop, framed by the delightful Maitland scenery.*

*Editor's note: It is such a pity that the brilliance of the jacarandas in bloom cannot be fully appreciated with these black & white photos*



*Jamberoo player John Deeves' clearing shot is watched carefully by referee Pam Ingham while opponent Larry Bryant keeps in the shade and upcoming player John Purnell follows his ball across the lawn.*



*Larry Bryant put everything and then some into this shot on Maitland's relatively slow lawns.*



*Steve Thornton (eventual winner of Block C) prepares for a delicate shot watched by fans from Maitland*

**Trevor Black**  
Tournament Manager



The Newsletter is sponsored by the **NSW Department of Sport**

## Shenanigans at the Mosman Croquet Club

After the Mosman Prize for Croquet new unsuspecting members were catapulted into the Mosman Prep School's Croquet Program throughout November. Again, the club taught Aussie Croquet to 100 boys from Years 3 and 4, 25 in each class with four members teaching at any time. The boys were a particularly frisky lot and some of us are still recovering. The Mosman Daily featured an action photograph and wonderful article.

Luckily we had a couple of weeks to draw breath before the Christmas Party. This was the best one ever with 70 members (some spouses) attending. We kicked off at 1.30pm with the President's Trophy (mini-Golf Croquet games of 7 hoops), played in pairs and play as many games as you can. All four lawns were full of frantic players. We were delighted to see Ken Edwards and even his wife Jean wielding a mallet. Warren Porter helped by Ron Humpherson organised the games with the large whiteboard on the verandah showing the state of the competition at any time. It was "neck and neck" many times with two finalists, Martyn Prins/Marjorie Lehmann and David Evans/Michael Morton-Evans shooting to the peg with the rookies David and Michael winning. It was so much fun. This was followed by the arrival of the Mayor, Ann Connon, as well as Councillor Jim Reid and Barry O'Keefe at 5pm to present the annual prizes (trophies and certificates). We all partied on till about 8pm. The weather was fine and contributed to a great day.

New Year's Eve saw 12 determined players arriving at 5pm to start off the evening's festivities. This was followed at 6.30pm with dinner and drinks in the clubhouse. It took Martyn Prins to capture what is really going on at the club with the attached photograph. In his words, "Some folks seem to have interpreted Club Day too literally! Mal Russell and Rob Robson were sorting out a difference of opinion in a time-honored fashion. Immediate Past President, Lindsay Thompson, was perfectly happy to just adjudicate".



*Here's to a wonderful 2012 season of croquet.*

*Mary Gibson  
Secretary*

## New Trophy at Nelson Bay club

Our Club was fortunate to have a handsome shield donated by one of our Founding Members, Cyril Blowes, to be competed for each year and the winners' names engraved on the shield after each competition. The winners are also to be presented with a personal trophy as a keepsake. Presentation will be at the Club's Christmas Dinner and get-together.

This year's competition was run as a "Doubles Automatic Two-Life Knockout Event" and continued for a number of weeks until the final playoff on the 5th November 2011 when Pam and Tony Mumford finished in front of Mollie and Barrie Carter with a final score of 7/6. A very close game and worthy opponents.



- On the left-hand side are the Winners - Pam and Tony Mumford.
- On the right-hand side are the Runners-up - Mollie and Barrie Carter
- In the centre our own Club member and accredited referee, Margaret Thompson

*Irene Gover  
Secretary*

### *Valé*

**John Hanscomb**, former member of Coogee and Sydney Clubs, who died on Christmas Day. John held many positions of responsibility with and contributed greatly to CNSW over many years.



**Merv Dunkley**, former member of EDSACC & Forster Clubs, who died on 2 February. Merv held the positions of Director of Refereeing for CNSW, ACA Events Manager, and Australian Representative on the International Laws Committee amongst other contributions to his local clubs.



**Joe Larsen**, member of Lismore Club, who died early December.



*Our sympathy is extended to their family and friends.*

## MNCCC Division Champion of Champions

The battle for "Champion of Champions" was on again between teams from Gloucester, Port Macquarie, and Forster. Members played off the Division Championships of the MNCCC (Mid North Coast Croquet Council) at Port Macquarie recently. These three Clubs together with Taree, who did not participate this year, have been in competition going on 40 years. Each year there are 6 home and away events in both Golf and Association Croquet with the best players of these games going on to play in this event. Socialising is all part of the game and includes the yearly Christmas Party which will be held at Forster Croquet Club on 10 December, when the awards, and the Jan Sage Plate for Golf, and Rogers Plate for Association will be presented.

Congratulations this year must go to the Port Macquarie team who won Division 1 Golf Croquet, taking out the "Champion of Champions". Due to other commitments our Division 1 Champion, Ray Vize and runner up John Coates were not available. Archie Mc

Culloch stepped up to represent Forster and put up a good fight against Paul Mitchell, the Port Macquarie Champion. The score was level until Paul won by one point.

The strong Golf team from Forster participated admirably in the singles with Sandy Coutts winning Division 2 and Mary Greig (Golf Captain) taking out Division 3. There were no Division 1 representatives from Forster in the doubles, however, we still did extremely well in the Division 2 doubles being won by Neville Milne and Terry Johnson with Barbara Lagos and Judy Belcher taking out Division 3. Barbara and Judy's win was even sweeter as they were the runners up in the Forster Club competitions as the winners, Robert Greig and Elaine Coles, were unable to participate. Congratulations to all players on a competition well fought.

**Association Division Championships** were held at Taree earlier this year and won by Port Macquarie who will receive the Rogers Plate in recognition of their efforts. Forster Croquet Club showed great success with Division 1 being won by Ray Vize - Forster, Division 2 John Talbott - Taree, Division 3 Penny Jude - Forster; and Division 4 Rob Trevanion - Forster. What can we say, but well done Forster.



*Sandy Coutts, Neville Milne, Terry Johnson, Archie McCulloch, Barbara Lagos, Judy Belcher, Mary Greig*

## NSW State Schools Golf Croquet Competition

This competition was held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at our Wagga Wagga Club. Thank you to Jacky and Geof McDonald who attended and refereed the play. Eight students from both The Riverina Anglican College and Mount Austin High School played, and they are to be commended on their behaviour and sportsmanship.

Tactics were most impressive, and Geof commented on the improvement throughout the day with each game played. Within a very short period of Geof instructing the jump shot, this was successfully completed by quite a few of the boys.

The Mount Austin students have not had much golf croquet this year, and for Ryan Rafter to be in the finals against TRAC's Lawrence Adams, was extremely impressive. This was an intense game with Lawrence eventually winning 7-5.



*Team Members with Jacky McDonald*



*The Finalists with Jacky*

**SCHOOL CROQUET:** During 2011 Wagga Wagga Club had 812 students using the Club for School Sport. Golf Croquet was mainly played by these students. Next year Kildare College is showing interest in involving their school with Gateball. This will enable us to hold a Gateball tournament amongst the schools in this area during 2012.

*Robyn Mills*

## Urunga Croquet Club Second Golf Croquet Singles Carnival

In November 2011 Urunga played host to 36 visiting players for its second Golf Croquet Singles Carnival held over four days. There were a number of players competing at Urunga for the first time and it was great to greet new faces and equally pleasing to renew friendships with many players who have regularly enjoyed travelling to Urunga. The format for the carnival was such that we only played singles and played both level and handicap play with each player having 10 games over the four days - a real challenge to Management to complete. The Committee were up to it and everything was completed in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

On the Thursday evening many players enjoyed relaxing at the Carnival Dinner provided by Lui's Restaurant at the C.ex Urunga Golf & Sports Club. We returned to the main Club for our presentations, refreshments and finger food on the Friday at the completion of play and a number of players stayed on to enjoy the evening and cleaning up at the meat raffles.

Carnivals don't just happen and a willing band of Club members were available to assist with the running of the Carnival and setting up the courts early each morning so play can commence on time. Their efforts are appreciated by organisers and players. We should also not forget the referees, many of them players awaiting their turn to play, who kept things flowing smoothly. Once again a Referee Mentoring program was conducted with players who are preparing to sit the Referees exam getting valuable on court practice under the watchful eye of a qualified Referee. Players travelled from Lismore to participate in this program and were very thankful of the experience and assistance given by all Mentors.

A special thank you should go to Robert Grieg of Forster Croquet Club, who due to recent surgery was unable to play, but assisted the Committee with ensuring players were ready to take to the lawn as one became available - valuable training to assist him manage future Forster Carnivals.

We would also like to thank our sponsors for this event; our major sponsor was the Federation of Community, Sporting and Workers Clubs, who own the units adjacent to our Club where many of the players stayed. Our secondary sponsor was Coffs Ex-Services Memorial and Sporting Club Ltd. and we thank them for their continued support of our carnivals.

The leaders after the level round found the going a little tougher when they had to give extra turns, although a number of players forgot to use them. The Handicapper was kept busy writing new cards for players as they filled their old cards and adjusting handicaps; there were thirteen handicap changes over the four days. Three of the six blocks had results decided on nett score so it was a keenly contested competition.

### The Block Winners were:

<b>Block A</b>	Joe Dimech (Taree)
<b>Block B</b>	Bill Munns (Toronto)
<b>Block C</b>	Dianne Cheetham (Maitland)
<b>Block D</b>	Elaine Coles (Forster)
<b>Block E</b>	Pat Johnston (Forster)
<b>Block F</b>	Mary Grieg (Forster)

Most players remarked about the format of the Carnival with players enjoying playing both level and handicap play and eager to return next year. If you have not been to Urunga on the Mid North Coast you may like to consider next year, although get your entries in early as we can only accept 36 players.



*Gay Stump (Cheltenham) prepares to take her shot with referee Greg Deakin (Eastwood) on watch*

*Three wise spectators - Barbara Lagos (Forster), Mary Bone (Myall Lakes) and Dianne Cheetham (Maitland)*



### Jamberoo News

Our Golf Croquet Handicap Singles Tournament was held 16—18 November, with players coming from eleven different clubs, and one very nervous starter from Jamberoo playing in her first Tournament. Two blocks of twelve players allowed for all participants to compete against eleven others. Games were keenly contested with many needing the full 13 hoops to achieve a result.

Forty-four enthusiastic players from various clubs came to a Golf Croquet Friendship Day on Wednesday 14 December joining in the fun of the day, and enjoying a delicious BBQ lunch prepared by our members. Another great day was had by all who attended our Australia Day celebrations. Five of our members had birthdays on or around Australia Day so there were lots of yummy treats and an Aussie BBQ lunch was enjoyed while all were entertained by our own members' band.

During the year we will be hosting an Association Tournament, Golf Tournament and the big one for us will be the CNSW Division 3 Singles and Doubles Tournament in April.

*Contd p. 7*

## 60th Anniversary Celebration At Port Macquarie

On 4 December 1951, some Port Macquarie ladies met with a representative of the Hastings Municipal Council to clear the way for the foundation of a croquet club in the town. Two years later, the clubhouse and the lawns were finished. It was originally a ladies only club; in 1960 men were allowed to become members for the first time. On 4 December 2011, this event was commemorated and celebrated.

40 members of the present club, 20 members from the other Mid North Coast croquet clubs – Gloucester, Taree and Forster – came together in ideal weather to pay tribute to the founders. The Port Macquarie club was also fortunate enough to have present the State President, John Compton, and his wife Robyn. Many of those present had dressed in clothes similar to the ones worn in 1951; some of the clothes had been bought, some had been made especially for the occasion and, I suspect, some had been found in the back of the wardrobe !

After morning tea and an opening address, the players competed in a series of novelty events, designed to test skills of length, direction and accuracy. A recently constructed jump machine was also popular. The main competition was a golf croquet knock-out tournament in which the winner of each match was decided by being the first to score 2 hoops. There were no timekeepers and no referees in charge; players could ask for a ruling from any qualified referee from among the spectators. Because the original members were all women, it was decided that the men players had to play every shot side-saddle. This rule brought the strong men players back to the field and was extremely popular among the lady players. Indeed all the semi-finalists were female; at least one leading man player lost a hoop (and his match) by playing a shot from between his feet. Spectators were vocal in their support of their favourites and were allowed to offer advice during the matches.

Lunch at midday consisted of chicken and massive amounts of salad supplied by the Port members, and the dessert was tiramisu made by the Association Captain's husband !! A toast to the Port Macquarie club was followed by various photos of all those present, of the members present, of the visitors etc. In the afternoon novelty events continued as well as social play and the final of the knock-out competition, which was won by Yvonne Bagnall of Gloucester.

At 3.00 the official birthday cake was cut by the President and two life members, Mona Warren and Thyra Neilson. Prizes for the croquet events and for the most appropriate costume were distributed. After a short address by John Compton, some social play continued and the participants gradually departed for home. All agreed that it had been a day worth remembering – a day in which the founders were honoured, a day in which 60 croquet players came together in friendship to enjoy their sport and social interaction with each other.. That, after all, is what

belonging to a croquet club is all about.



*The Club's Foundation Members*



*The 60th Celebration Group*



*Thyra Neilson (Life Member), John Hincks (President) and Mona Warren (Life Member) cut the Celebration Cake*

*John Hincks  
President*

### *Jamberoo contd from p. 6*

After major renovations in December our lawns are back in operation, looking great and running well.

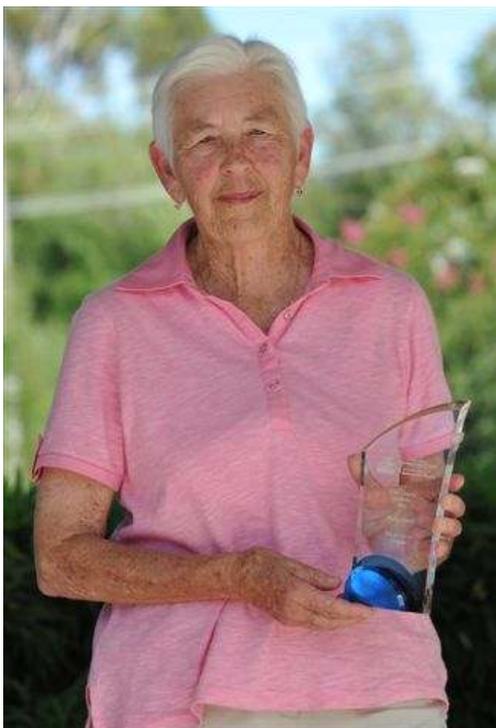
The CNSW email group, set up by our President and CNSW Senior V-President, Roger Evans, has certainly created a lot of interest. It is good to get a variety of opinions on various topics.

*Dot Moroney  
Publicity Officer*

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



## Wagga's Local Legend - Nola Scott



*Photo of Nola Scott with her award courtesy of the Daily Advertiser (Wagga Wagga)*

As part of the 2012 Australian Day Awards ceremony, life member Nola Scott was inducted into Wagga Wagga Sporting Hall of Fame as a Local Legend.

Nola joined the Wagga Wagga Croquet club in 1984. Nola was a self taught player, learning the game through books. She qualified as a Level 1 Coach in 1988 and was qualified until 2010 when she allowed her qualification to lapse as her husband was ill and she couldn't dedicate the time required. Although, no longer formally qualified, she is still coaching in a limited capacity at the moment. During her time as a coach at Wagga Wagga she has trained the majority of the Club's Association players, including Jim Nicholls who is a current member of the NSW State Association Team and Marga Podnicks who has represented South Australia at both Association and Golf Croquet. Nola was also involved in introducing croquet to a number of adult groups and the Schools Croquet Program ran by CNSW.

In 1998 Nola became the first qualified referee in Wagga Wagga.

Nola has served on the committee for no less than 24 years of the 28 years she has been a member. Her commitment and enthusiasm to members, the club, and to the sport in general has been instrumental in building a thriving club of approximately 70+ today.

Nola is also known for getting the last word in, however on this occasion she was speechless, a phenomenon her daughter has never witnessed before.

## Show me the money...

Obtaining funding for croquet is not the easiest task, and one must keep one's eyes peeled and ears pinned to take advantage of any funding that does become available. In the past five years the Wagga Wagga Croquet club has been successful in securing funding from a number of different sources including: \$7,300 for mallets, cupboards, computer, printer and shade, courtesy of the Volunteers Grant through Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and \$3,500 for shade seating and entrance ramp, courtesy of Wagga Wagga City Council's Annual Community Grants Programme.

Much of the success in securing funding has been by involving a number of organisations in your club's projects, eg the local Men's shed, and continual development of our schools program during the past five years. This increases the likelihood (no guarantees here...sorry) of having a positive response for your submission.

And there are always new avenues of funding. Jim Nicholls applied for a personal development grant, offered by the Wagga Wagga City Council, to assist in the costs of travelling to play in the World Championships and other National events. His objective - "to improve his skills, tactics and mindset to enable him to play at the highest level of croquet in Australia and Overseas". Organisations, be they government or business, enjoy having exposure on the wider stage and being seen as assisting locals in fulfilling their dreams.

Our latest application is to obtain funding to have our young gateballers receive tuition and develop a vibrant gateball competition in Wagga, all to be organised by 16 & 17 year olds. Whilst all funds received are gratefully accepted, the other main benefit is the promotion of croquet in our local communities and organisations.

Should you require assistance with submitting your grant application email Jim Nicholls - [jimbo.croquet@gmail.com](mailto:jimbo.croquet@gmail.com)



*Mayor Kerry Pascoe, General Manager Phil Pinyon and Jim*

*Jim Nicholls*

## **Mila Kotala – Life Member of Cammeray Club**



Mila Kotala, Cammeray Croquet Club's Secretary for many years and the last of their life members still active in the club, has 'handed in her mallet' due to her failing health. She will remain involved with the club as telephone contact person and organiser of lawn hirings, a role in which she is best known and which she can continue to do from home.

**Neil Hartley** has provided the following background about Mila:

"Mila was born in Indonesia to a Dutch mother and a Czech father. She grew up speaking Dutch, Czech and Indonesian. At school, under the Dutch education system, she was also required to study English, French and German.

When the Japanese occupied Indonesia in 1940 she was then aged 9. Because Czechoslovakia capitulated to the Germans, Czech nationals were not regarded by the Japanese as enemies; her family was thus spared the horrors of internment.

Mila had a vital role in these war years. As a young girl on a bicycle, she was not an object of obvious suspicion to the Japanese and so she was able to carry food from the markets to her family and to smuggle food to friends in concentration camps via sympathetic Indonesian servants. Had she been discovered in these activities, she would have been executed. While out on her bicycle, Mila acted as a go-between for her father and the only other owner of an illegal radio in the vicinity to share news of the progress of the war.

When the war ended, Mila was sent to Australia to continue her education as there were no teachers who had survived the war. She was not able to continue the study of so many languages in Australia; they did not match the

options available at Ravenswood Girls School. She had to settle for some subjects such as biology that she had not studied previously. As her English was elementary, she was placed in second-year classes although her knowledge of other subjects was beyond second-year level. With the help of the headmistress who worked on her English in after-school hours she was able to jump to fourth-year classes in the next school year.

On returning to Indonesia, Mila found that her language and organisational skills were in high demand. She worked for the International Red Cross and, later, for YMCA; both jobs required her to speak fluent, Dutch, English and Indonesian. She helped her father in these years in his capacity as chemical engineer and as honorary Czech consul, and so took some part in the heady diplomatic atmosphere of the formative post-war period.

Mila met and married her husband in Indonesia. They spent a year travelling the world, to countries where they might settle. Fortunately for us, they chose Australia in which to raise two children. Fortunately, also, they bought a unit in Sutherland Street overlooking our Club. She tried and loved the game of croquet progressing rapidly to silver standard – 'nearly gold' as she puts it.

Mila has made many friends through her association with the Club and has made a major contribution to the Club as a first class Secretary. This was recognised by the Club granting her Life Membership in 2000. We are not saying goodbye to Mila as she will continue to assist us though in a less demanding role than previously; we are instead giving her our warmest thanks for all that she has done for us at Cammeray Croquet Club."

## **Nowra Club Keeps Busy**

Nowra Croquet Club enjoyed playing with some visitors from Milton Ulladulla in January while their own court was being cored and top dressed. Nowra croquet club will be hosting the CNSW GC doubles and singles in April and they will also be celebrating their 90th anniversary and the official opening of the clubhouse on 17th April. The new clubhouse can be seen in the background



*Pat Poynter  
Publicity Officer*

## Muswellbrook Croquet Club

In September 2011 we celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and combined this special occasion with the Glenda Downs Memorial Day. Despite pouring rain players arrived from far and wide and in true croquet spirit the games began: we were rewarded with sunshine after lunch much to everyone's relief. The boys from Dungog, John Martins and John Dark, were the winners of the day for the third time. Watch out boys we are out to get you!

St. Joseph's Aberdeen and Roger St. Public School are again offering Croquet as a sport; both schools are booked in for the four school terms. It is amazing to see these students in action, the way they become competitive and pick up the rules so quickly. This article was in the St. Joseph's Newsletter.

*This year has seen the introduction of croquet as a sport on a Thursday afternoon. The new sport has been widely accepted by the students and is one of the first sports to be filled up when the students are making their sports selection each term, I have no doubt that this is a testament to the fantastic group of men and women from Muswellbrook Croquet Club that volunteer their time each Thursday to teach the students the game which was largely unfamiliar or completely foreign to most of the students.*

A big "Thank You" to those members of Muswellbrook club who willingly give up their time, with out you it just wouldn't be possible.



On 3 December 2011, our beloved Patron Maureen Copland, died peacefully in her sleep. Maureen will be sadly missed as she was a great advocate for Croquet and one of our founding members.

John Morris and his wife Dawn have now relocated to the South Coast. John, no doubt, has joined a croquet club in the area - we wish them well with their "Sea Change".

Like many clubs our numbers fluctuate, so this year we are focusing on attracting new members to croquet. We held a "Bring A Friend Day" late last year, this proved successful and so we intend to hold more this year, along with inviting different clubs and organisations in our area.

Unfortunately our Association numbers are dwindling greatly, I would be interested to know if there are Association players in the Hunter area who would be interested in coming to Muswellbrook to have a social game.



Nan Hopkins was the inaugural winner of our "Club Person Of The Year Award." Nan has been a stalwart of our club for many years and has forgotten more than we younger players have yet to learn.

Stephen Thatcher won the Maureen Copland Trophy for Association Croquet followed by John Morris and Gayle Merrick. Elaine Almond won the Clare Moody Trophy for Golf Croquet followed by Dot Jackson and Pat Feeney.

Probus Club members joined us for a fun day of Golf Croquet early February, an enjoyable time was had by all. Congratulations to Branxton Club on the opening of their new Clubhouse, it goes to show what a little determination by the "Grey Brigade" can do, an inspiration to us all.

Happy Croquetting!



*Steph Day - St Joe's Winner of Mini Competition*



*The Boys from Dungog  
John Dark &  
John Martins*



*Helen Enright & Gayle Merrick*

*Jean Fibbins and Gayle Merrick*

## Makara Croquet Carnival

The following croquet clubs: Coogee, Holroyd, Hurstville, Marrickville, Port Hacking, Strathfield, Sutherland and Wollongong have co-hosted the very successful 28th Makara Croquet Carnival. This carnival has now been run without interruption for 28 years. The Makara is named in honour of the aboriginal legend of the Seven Emu sisters.

Eight separate events were held at five venues over the period from 28th October to 18<sup>th</sup> November inclusive. Sixty-one CNSW members participated and with some players playing in more than one event, the Makara had a total of eighty-seven entrants. Entrants came from Jamberoo, Epping, Chatswood, Hunters Hill, Mosman, Cammeray, Canberra & Milton Ulladulla as well as from the host clubs.

The carnival covers events in both association croquet and golf croquet and catered for all levels of play from novice to platinum/Division 1. The standard in all events was excellent with some great standout plays.

**Novices Singles.** Winner : David Loony  
Runner up: Richard Thomas

The novices particularly enjoyed their entry into the competitive nature of croquet and we hope this has whet their appetite to enter more competitions.

**The Bronze Championship Singles.** This event was well represented with 10 entrants. Winner John Bennett, who was last year's novice winner, with John Love runner up. John was thrilled to once again be the holder of the Wilson Cup, a spectacular Silver Coffee Pot!

**The Silver Championship Singles:** Winner Ros Johnstone, Runner up Alf James.

As the numbers were down for this event, it was played as a double round robin and the standard of play was high not withstanding some extremely hot weather. A big thank you to Wall Fernance who allowed one of his matches to be pegged down to accommodate his opponent.

**The Handicap Platinum/Gold Singles.** Winner : Ted Salter, who was last year's Silver Winner,  
Runner up: Jean Pack.

All players maintained a high standard throughout the competition

**Silver/Bronze Handicap Doubles.** The Silver/Bronze Handicap Doubles produced some good battles. The event was won by John & Katherine Love with Ruth Bridger and Richard Thomas runners up. Thank you to Ruth and Richard who partnered each other at the last minute as their respective partners had to withdraw due to family commitments.

**Division 1 Golf Croquet singles.** Due to having only five entrants this event was also played as a double round robin. All matches were hard fought with most of them being won on the 13<sup>th</sup> hoop. The winner was Peter Freer with John Eddes runner up.

**Division 2 Golf Croquet singles.** Was well represented with twelve entrants who enjoyed the competition, and camaraderie. The winner was Bernie McAlary and the runner up was Tony McArthur. All competitors were thrilled with the condition of Port Hackings lawns, especially the new one.

**Open Golf Croquet Doubles Handicap.** This was our biggest event with nineteen pairs competing. It was great to see some newer croquet players playing in a tournament for the first time. The matches were hard fought with the overall winners being Ian and Sharlene Subbi from Jamberoo, with Dennis Faggotter and John Eddes runners up.

Hurstville hosted our final day with the finals of the Open Golf Croquet Doubles Handicap followed by an excellent luncheon and presentation. As usual, Katherine Love excelled herself with the presentation of both the menu and the décor. Feedback from players indicated the tournament was very successful and lived up to the expectations of a friendly and fun end of year tournament.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the venue managers, some of whom managed for the first time, all of whom helped make the tournament run so smoothly.

I would like to thank the referees from the host clubs who gave of their time so willingly and a special thank you to those referees from other clubs who when asked to help out obliged so willingly. All clubs also had the assistance of the backbone of any club, the helpers, and a thank you goes out to them. Also a big thank you to the players who supported the carnival this year and many of whom have supported this carnival over many years.

Any tournament is only as good as its entrants, supported by managers and referees and helpers.

The Makara is advertised as a FUN end of year tournament, and I believe it has lived up to its reputation, of friendship, camaraderie and competitive games.

Looking forward to seeing you all again in Oct/Nov 2012 when the Southern clubs will again host the Makara.



*Harry Taylor presents the Trophy for the Open Golf Croquet Doubles Handicap to Sharlene & Ian Subbi (Jamberoo). This is a new Trophy for this event, named in honour of Harry Taylor who was for many years Chairman of the Makara Committee.*

**Ros Johnstone**

## Suggested change to Association Croquet Law 28(a)(14)

In a recent tournament, a competitor attempting a thin take-off from the Corner I corner point, left the croqueted ball (CB) about 6 inches inside the western boundary and the striker's ball (SB) between the two opponent balls near hoop 3. The referee, from a position directly behind the striker and in line with the intended path of the SB, ruled the shot illegal because the SB had been played away from the CB. The player protested that the movement of the CB showed that it had been played into. The referee explained that while the shot had satisfied that part of the law that required that the CB move, it had failed the other part in that that it had clearly been played away from the CB.

I believe the decision was an understandable misinterpretation of a law whose wording is ambiguous. Its principal assertion — "A fault is committed if...the striker...in a croquet stroke, plays away from or fails to move or shake the croqueted ball." — could have at least two different meanings:

**Interpretation 1:** A fault is committed if the striker plays away from the CB, failing to make it move or shake.

**Interpretation 2:** There are two different ways of breaking this law. One is playing away from the CB. The other is failing to make the CB move or shake.

Under the first interpretation, there is only one fault — playing away. Failing to make the CB move or shake is not a second, different fault — it is only evidence of whether the playing away fault occurred.

Under the second interpretation, there are two different, independent faults and you break the law if you commit either of them. The implication of this interpretation is that you can break the law by playing away, no matter whether the CB moves or not, and you can also break it by failing to make the CB move, whether you played away or not.

In the incident described above, the referee assumed the second interpretation, demonstrating its ambiguity.

I'm advised that the wording is to guard against two situations where the CB can move even when the striker played away: where the mallet struck the CB as well as the SB [breaching 28(a)(12)] and where the CB was leaning against the SB and toppled when it lost the support of the SB. But the present wording does not cover these situations. Because it doesn't, an interpretation had to be included in the *Official Rulings in the Laws of Croquet (ORLC)* that reads, "Note that a fault is committed if the striker plays away from the CB even though it moves or shakes, as it may well do if it was 'leaning' against the SB."

So, as it stands, what law 28(a)(14) provides is a set of words that:

- can be interpreted in at least two ways by referees and players,
- does not cover the case where the CB was leaning



against the SB, requiring an explanation to be added in a separate publication that most croquet players probably do not own and whose existence they might not even know about.

A rule that says exactly what it means without need of additional explanation is better than a rule that has to have its meaning clarified in a separate publication. This law could be worded to make clear the difference between the offence (playing away) and evidence of whether it was committed (movement of the CB), and at the same time to remove the need for an explanation in a separate publication. The law could make one simple statement identifying the offence and be supported by one explanatory sentence explaining how movement of the CB serves as evidence of whether it occurred.

I propose that the law state: *A fault is committed if, during the striking period, the striker in a croquet stroke, plays away from the croqueted ball.*

The supporting sentence could something like these. Whether the words in brackets are needed is arguable:

*Any movement or shaking of the croqueted ball is evidence that it was played into except a movement towards where the striker's ball had been before the stroke was played [for a movement caused by the mallet contacting it].*

*Any movement or shaking of the croqueted ball is evidence that the shot was fair except a movement consistent with its having merely toppled when it lost the support of the striker's ball [for a movement caused by the mallet contacting it]*

Glen Coulton  
Toronto Croquet Club (6/1/2012)

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### **Initial Response from Max Hooper:**

Dear Glen,

Thank you for your letter, but I am afraid I must disagree with you. Law 28(a)(14) means exactly what it says. You may not realise that it is possible to cause a croqueted ball to move, even when you hit away from it. It is less likely if the lawn is smooth, but is not so hard to do if the court is uneven.

If the croqueted ball is on an elevated part of the lawn or a sloping part, the striker's ball can be placed so that it stops the croqueted ball from moving downhill. Then when a stroke is played, the croqueted ball can be expected to move. This can even happen unintentionally if the croqueted ball starts to move while the player is trying to put his ball into position.

From what you say, the referee was in a good position to see what happened, and I think you should accept his decision.

Max Hooper

## Let's Talk (electronically)

The 69 Croquet clubs within NSW are scattered all around the state, often at considerable distances from each other. This tends to make it difficult for individual clubs and their members to communicate with each other and so, apart from the occasional tournament, we tend to live in isolation of each other. Of course, individual club members have made contacts in other clubs to talk to each other informally and this becomes part of the croquet fraternity and is encouraged. Croquet NSW tries to keep affiliated clubs informed via the quarterly newsletter and the web site (croquet-nsw.org) and but these methods provide, mainly, one-way communication.

With many more people now being Internet savvy, it has become feasible to establish a state wide e-mail list. This list, called 'cnswplayers' has been set up to allow clubs and their members to exchange ideas and to discuss issues related to the game we all enjoy. The list is a private one which means that it is only available to members of clubs affiliated with Croquet NSW. It means that only people listed in the CNSW yearbook will be allowed to join.

The list has been set up using Yahoo Groups which is a free service, the only problem being that some advertising is thrown in on occasions. Fortunately this only happens for those accessing the web site and is not too intrusive.

There are two parts of this new group:

An email list [cnswplayers@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cnswplayers@yahoo.com.au)

Any e-mail sent to this list will be sent to everyone on the list and a reply to a message will also go to everyone on the list. This makes the list useful for holding a group discussion on a particular topic.

A Web site at

<http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/cnswplayers/> which allows you to set your subscription profile and view the messages sent to the group. This web site also has provision to download files, view photos, run polls, etc but we are not intending to do much with this part at present because most of this type of information is covered by the Croquet NSW main web site.

Anyone interested can subscribe to the list in one of two ways:

For a full subscription (web site and e-mail) go to the web site

<http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/cnswplayers/> and click on the link which says; New User? 'Sign Up'. You will need to add your details and create a Yahoo ID and password if you don't already have them.

For e-mail only

you can send an e-mail to the group moderator at [svp@croquet-nsw.org](mailto:svp@croquet-nsw.org) (currently Roger Evans) requesting to be added to the list.

The list is available to discuss any issue related to the game(s), management of a club, facilities etc but the discussion should be constructive. Negative comments or criticism of another person or club do not belong on this list and will earn a reprimand on the first occasion and banning from the list if repeated.

In the first three weeks the list had over 40 members representing 22 of our 69 clubs and the membership is continuing to grow. We hope that we can all make use of it to improve both the game itself and how we operate our clubs.

*Roger Evans  
Senior Vice-President*

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## An interesting letter to The Australian Newspaper in January:

### It's Croquet, not croak it

Having managed to live to my 81st year with little, if any, third-party interference (apart from an occasional clip on the ear from Dad), I am appalled to find that I now have to have guidelines to help me play croquet.

Queensland's Department of Sports and Recreation has commended a policy to be adopted by the Croquet Association which embraces such pearls of wisdom as suggesting players wear warm clothes and a waterproof jacket when the weather is cold or wet. (Hello?)

When playing in hot weather (this is Queensland) we are to stop every 20 minutes if the temperature reaches 30 C so that players can have a cold drink. If the temperature reaches 35 C play can be stopped.

This is well beyond the imagination of any 80-year-old apparently, and must be exhibited on club notice boards.

How long before these strategic planners realise croquet is a dangerous game, and require balls to be made of papier-mache and mallets of soft plastic?

*Len James  
East Toowoomba, Qld*



### 5 & Under Doubles

This was the first Tournament for 2012 and was held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February. There were seven entries. This event is timed so that the state team can have some game practice in the format

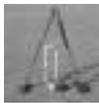
they will use in the Eire Cup. All of the state team members were present with the exception of Pete Landrebe as he had been invited to a tournament in Florida – lucky Pete!

Saturday was hot and sticky and by the end of four rounds there were some rather tired competitors. On Sunday there were about four spots of rain but other than that it was perfect.

Most of the games were close battles and there were only two triple peels over the weekend. The final placings were not decided until after the last round was completed.

Many thanks to all the competitors for your assistance and well done to the winners Tim Murphy and Jim Nicholls and runners up Rosie Graham & Alison Sharpe.

For all those invisible people who find it hard to offer to manage a CNSW tournament I can tell you that I have had a very pleasant two days – had a walk along the Cooks River for about an hour each morning, got quite a bit of cross stitch done, read a book and the Sunday paper, watched some great croquet and socialized with a really nice group of people.



*Jacky McDonald  
Manager*

### ACA's Australian Golf Croquet Presidents Tens

New South Wales was well represented at the recent Australian Golf Croquet Presidents Tens held at Cairnlea in Victoria. John Levick (Newcastle) and Peter Freer (Canberra) were selected to play in the First Tens, with Joe Dimech (Taree), Martyn Prins (Mosman), Ron Johnstone (Sutherland), and Trevor Black, Peter Smith, Stephen Dille and Pam Gentle (all from Maitland) in the Second Tens, and Barb Piggott (Urunga) and Jacky McDonald (Maitland) in the Women's Tens.

The First Tens was won by Terry Ericson from Queensland, with John Levick a creditable fourth against some very tough competition. Joe Dimech had 16 wins from 18 games to win the Second Tens, with Martyn Prins second and Trevor Black fifth in his first visit to Cairnlea. The Women's Tens was won by Tricia Devlin from Victoria.

The presence of five players from Maitland in the group reflects the strength of Golf Croquet at Maitland club and in the Hunter region.



*Pam Gentle*

### Cammeray Birthday Tournament 2012

The Cammeray Birthday Tournament was contested from 23-26 February. The lawns were in perfect condition, and so was the weather (as it usually is at Cammeray, despite what some people will tell you). Alan Walsh set the hoops very firmly, and they provided a real test of accurate hoop-running. Sixteen contestants came from Cammeray, Chatswood, Epping, Hunters Hill, Manly, Milton-Ulladulla and Mosman clubs, and handicaps ranged from 2.5 to 12. Four blocks each of four players were set up, each block with about the same total handicap.

Games were played starting at 1 pm, 4 pm and 7 pm each day except Sunday, when the final games at 4 pm were followed by a barbecue. Some players had not previously played under lights, and found the experience quite interesting. There were several very close games in the round robin, and also a few quite one-sided games. Seven games were decided by 2 hoops or less. In the opening round, Ted Salter played an immaculate game against Ron Humpherson, winning 26-0 in about 75 minutes, without using his 2 bisques. This brought his handicap down to 8, and the Tournament Handicap Committee brought it further down to 6. Mal Russell pegged out all his block games, and reduced his handicap to 7 in the process.

Thursday and Friday saw round robin block play, with the final series and the plate being played on Saturday and Sunday. Block winners Stephen Howes, Mal Russell, Bob Green and John Fransen progressed to the quarter finals to meet runners-up Michael Strickland, Annette du Preez, Neil Hartley and Ted Salter. Third & fourth place-getters from each block played the first knockout round of the plate event. Quarter final losers went into the plate to meet the winners of the first knockout round. The eventual winner of the plate was John Fransen, with Michael Strickland second.

In the quarter finals, Stephen Howes and Michael Strickland had an entertaining tussle after Michael accidentally pegged one of his balls out, with Stephen emerging victorious 26-24. John Fransen became another victim of Ted Salter's well-controlled game, losing 26-1. Mal Russell lost his magic touch, and lost 26-15 to Annette du Preez, while Bob Jones beat Neil Hartley 26-16. In a replay of the 2011 Final, Stephen Howes beat Bob Green 26-7 in one semi-final. In the other semi-final, Ted Salter overcame Annette du Preez 26-5.

Bob claimed 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a 26-17 win over Annette. In the final, Stephen Howes joined the ranks of those who had been "As-Salter-ed", going down 26-0 to Ted Salter. Congratulations, Ted. Enjoy your handicap of 6 – you won't have it for long!

The ladies of Cammeray, ably led by Margaret O'Brien, did a great job of keeping competitors and referees supplied with afternoon tea each day. Thanks also to referees Dennis Faggotter, Neil Hardie, Stephen Howes, Mike Hughes, Fay Simpson, Alan Walsh and Warren Yates. All in all, a very happy and successful tournament.



*President Stephen Howes presents Ted Salter with winner's Trophy*

*David Stanton  
Tournament  
Manager*

## Eastwood Club

### Friendship Games:

This doubles competition is conducted between Eastwood, Epping, Strathfield and Cheltenham Clubs each year with a high bisque and low bisque player being paired. Unfortunately, Cheltenham was unable to field an Association team so Strathfield entered 2 teams. This year Eastwood won the Tournament which is conducted over 3 days at each of the clubs. The members who played were: Dorothy Pratt, Pat Gilchrist, Shirley McLachlan, Sandra Townley, Graeme de Graaff, Joy Stimpson and Greg Deakin. At the conclusion of the tournament, all participants were invited to attend a lunch at Eastwood where the Trophy was presented by the President. All the members really enjoy meeting and playing members from the other clubs.

### Christmas celebration:

On Saturday, 10 December, the Club celebrated Christmas with a luncheon and entertainment at Brush Farm House, a heritage building which was built by Gregory Blaxland, who crossed the Blue Mountains with Lawson and Wentworth. It has been a home for the Blaxland family and then a children's home and for many years was left empty. It has now been fully restored by Ryde City Council. The Club decided to have a theme of *Colonial Bonnets and Bushrangers* and all members were asked to dress appropriately. We had Colonial Ladies, maids and waist-coated Gentlemen with cravats and top-hats. Everyone had a great day, including the showing of a pair of silk bloomers which had belonged to a member's great-grandmother and were worn by the member! We had a delicious cold lunch supplied by caterers with colonial sweets such as bread and butter custard, jellies and sponge cakes and Ned Kelly arrived and distributed gifts, instead of stealing them!



*Anne Byrne and Tony Virgona dress for Colonial Bonnets and Bushrangers at Brush Farm House*

Club

### Champions:

Eastwood Club Champions were presented with their awards at the Christmas Party.

Club Champion: Brian Smith

Silver Champion: Barbara Simeon

Bronze Champion: Nick Protos

Nella Melchert Memorial Trophy:

Pat Gilchrist and Margaret Cruikshank

Denise Raymond Trophy: Sandra Townley

Golf Croquet Doubles:

Dorothy Pratt and Nick Protos

Congratulations to all the entrants and the winners.

### Australia Day January 2012



Eastwood held an Australia Day Breakfast this year and we were delighted to welcome 30 members to partake of bacon and egg rolls, with tomato and onions, fresh fruit and champagne and orange juice. During the dry spells, we managed to have a thong throwing competition and a rolling pin throw. One member was so enthusiastic, the wooden rolling pin went out into the parking area and narrowly missed hitting a car. Even though the weather was not the best, with the rain we seem to have had all summer, the members played Golf Croquet and Aussie Croquet after the breakfast. Aussie Croquet has become quite popular with some of the newer members of the club and seems to be a bridge between Golf and Association.

### The Chinese Community in Eastwood

Eastwood area has a very large population of Chinese and Korean people and the club has been welcoming them to play croquet. We have arranged several Open Days and we hope that some of them will join the club and become regular players. The club has introduced them to Golf Croquet and with our members not speaking Chinese and the Chinese not speaking very much English, there are many extraordinary hand signals and lots of amusement in trying to learn and teach the rules. Members of Eastwood Club have also attended Chinese New Year celebrations and been blessed by the God of Good Fortune for this Year of the Dragon. We hope that the blessing will be our good fortune this year.

*Shirley McLachlan*



*Action at Gala Day*

## **CNSW Gala Day 2012**

The 88 people who attended the CNSW Gala day on 24th February were asked to complete a survey form to provide some feedback on how the event could be improved for next year.

Of those attending, only 49 people, representing 11 clubs, filled in the survey forms and the results of were:

Most enjoyed the day and said that they would come again;

Scoring of the activities ranged from disappointing to excellent with Bagatelle, The Clock, Dogs Hind Leg and Eggs in the Basket being the most popular;

Activities unique to one of the croquet codes tended to be rated poorly by players of the other code. For example, Corner-to-Corner (Association) and The Roo (Golf Croquet - jump shot);

The Swing Trainer rated poorly but mainly because it was too narrow for most mallets;

The welcome was rated OK by those who were close enough to hear but many people couldn't hear and some suggested that a PA system should be used;

The facilities (toilets mainly) were rated to be adequate to good but only because players were able to use the Concordia Club's facilities.

A common complaint was that there was insufficient shade around the grounds. 41 out of the 49 who filled in the survey (about 84%) indicated that shade was a problem.

Most of the attendees were from Sydney clubs although some came as far away as Nowra and Branxton. Those coming from country clubs had to make a day of it with some leaving as early as 6:00 am for the 10:00 am start.

The survey asked for suggestions on improving the day but, apart from improving the shade and using a PA system during the opening and prize giving, none were received.

*Roger Evans  
Senior Vice-President*