

CROQUET NSW Inc.

Newsletter

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DECEMBER 2013

30th Makara 2013



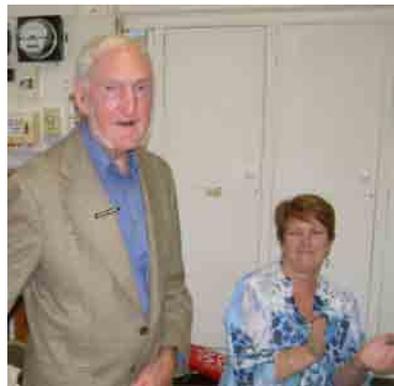
Winners for 2014

The following croquet clubs: Coogee, Holroyd, Hurstville, Marrickville, Port Hacking, Strathfield, Sutherland and Wollongong have co-hosted the very successful 30th Makara Croquet Carnival. The Management Committee from these clubs had special 30th Anniversary pins struck, which were given to players, managers, referees and also to those who have supported us over many years.

We certainly had some highs and lows this year. Our highlights were excellent games, good sportsman ship and fun times. Our lows always appear to be caused by the weather. Our novices played one day when the air was heavy with smoke from back burning and bushfires, with the only comment being made was empathetic with the bushfire victims. Our Open GC players felt like they were being washed off the court on both days of the tournament, as also happened to the Division 2 players. Again the only comment made was empathizing with the need for so much rain. *And we played on.*

We would like to pay tribute to the original croquet players who instigated this tournament and to all those who have given their time and their commitment to ensuring that this tournament has survived uninterrupted for thirty years.

Our numbers were lower this year with 60 CNSW members participating and with some players playing in more than one event, the Makara had a total of 82 event entrants. This was in part due to the fact that CNSW ran 6



Alistair Wilson (shown here with his daughter Rosemary) commenced the Makara competition with his wife Marion and he has kept a keen interest in its running for some twenty-five years.

events at the same time as the Makara resulting in our players putting in less multiple entries.

Entrants came from Epping, Milton Ulladulla, Canberra, Sydney Club, Royal Sydney & Cammeray as well as from the host clubs.

Association Croquet.

It was pleasing to see both the novice singles [6 players] the bronze singles [8 players] and the bronze silver doubles [7 pairs] well represented. It was disappointing however not to be able to run the platinum gold doubles, the silver singles due to lack of numbers and to have only three platinum players and no gold players competing in the platinum gold singles.

The standard in all events was excellent with some great standout plays.



Ros Johnstone & Katherine Love cutting the celebration cake

.....Contd p. 19



Croquet NSW Inc is located at Mackey Park, Marrickville, Sydney

Postal address: PO Box 5096 Marrickville NSW 1475 • Phone: (02) 9559 6073 • Email: office@croquet-nsw.org

From the President:

The value of sport in the community is well documented. The benefits to general wellbeing, health, social inclusion and mental stimulation of playing croquet places croquet at the forefront of valued sports. Croquet is a game of inclusion – all can play the game at some level. Governments at all levels talk of the benefits of exercise for good health – maybe they should look more seriously at croquet as a means of promoting better health at all ages. Do we do enough to promote our sport?

Recently, I and other members of Maitland Croquet Club were fortunate to be involved in a small schools extravaganza. Over 2 days more than 200 Primary/Infants students from small schools around Raymond Terrace/Maitland areas participated in eleven different sports all conducted in Maitland Park. The general consensus amongst both students and staff was that croquet was challenging, interesting and lots of fun. Many students voted croquet as their number one pick of the sports. The highlight of the two days had to be the experience of twenty kindergarten students learning to strike balls and run hoops.

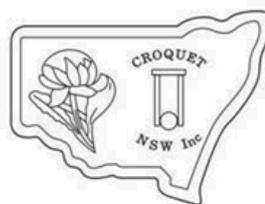
The Executive, Tournament Committee and Selectors have been asked to consider the early formation of State Practice Squads. The Squads would be selected immediately after the previous year's competition. That is, the GC Squad would be selected late 2013 for the ISS 2014 and the AC Squad for 2015 after the 2014 Eire Cup. The purpose of the squads would be to team build, organise regular practice sessions, consider personal training regimes as well as compete for places in the State Teams.

A further discussion point is the organisation of Development/Talent Identification Programs at both country and city venues. Identifying and fostering promising and talented players would be the main aim of this program. Would your Club be interested in this program if it eventuates?

Congratulations to Peter Landrebe and Rosemary Landrebe on being selected in the Australian Training Squad to prepare for the inaugural Trans Tasman Golf Croquet Competition. The GC Trans Tasman is due to be played in 2015 in New Zealand. Eight men and eight women have been selected for this squad.

The entries for some competitions in 2013 have been disappointing especially the Champion of Champions Competitions. How can players and clubs be encouraged to support the Champion of Champions concept? Is there scope for a Champion of Champions Competition in doubles? Many questions, many considerations – does your Club or you personally have views on any of these matters. Does your Club wish to be involved? I would love to hear from you. comptos46@bigpond.com

John Compton



From the Editor:

It has been another struggle to fill the pages of this issue of the Newsletter. I sent emails to several clubs who had carnivals of one sort or another in the time slot of this publication but

not all responded with an article. As I have said in the past, the articles just help the rest of us know something about what is happening in your corner of the state. They do not have to be great literary productions. A couple of photos also add to the story. It does not even have to be a carnival—just a piece to let us know that all is well in your area.

Having said that, I was delighted to receive a contribution from Holroyd Club. I think this is the first one I have had a contribution from this club since taking over the Newsletter so I hope the Holroyd members will continue to keep in touch. The other clubs I want to thank for their contributions are: Blue Mountains, Canberra (Gateball), Forster, Gloucester, Lismore, Maitland, Manly, Mosman, Muswellbrook, Nowra, Port Macquarie, Sawtell, Sutherland, Taree, Urunga, Wollongong and Young.

There is a very comprehensive account of Coaching around the clubs in 2013 and a Bear's perspective on the recent GC Interstate Shield. Sadly, a letter indicating some unpleasant behavior at a competition was received. I certainly hope this incident is one of a kind. Of course, it seems that the Newsletter would be incomplete without featuring a Croquet Cake and I was pleased to display two in this issue. Naturally at this time we also have the very comprehensive account of the Makara competition –with its own cake to honour the 30th anniversary!

One thing I regret is that there are very few commentaries coming in to cover the various competitions being held at Tempe. I try to put the results of all these events in the Newsletter and acknowledge the winners and other players where possible.

Christmas Greetings to everyone—may you all be safe during the holiday season and be ready to do it all again in the New Year.

Wendy Fothergill

Closing date for March Issue: 17 February



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

Wollongong Interacts with Local High School

During August 2013 Wollongong Croquet Club had a number of short sessions with a local high school to introduce students to the game of croquet as part of their curriculum. They were put into small groups and shown the fundamentals by a member of our club. Then all students tried running the hoop, roqueting and blocking. They were very interested when shown a jump shot, but did not attempt one.

Some students showed real talent in the sport. Members of the club who participated in this event enjoyed the company of these polite, interested and appreciative young people. Both our members and the students gained a lot from this adventure.



Merilyn Brooks

Blue Mountains Croquet Club

While our club may be small, the enthusiasm of our members is quite the opposite. We continue to enjoy a range of mallet sports through the week and endeavour to provide a warm welcome to locals and visitors alike.

Regular visitors include a group from the local neighbourhood centre's Community Access Services, under the guidance of Gateballer Maggi Williams. The rules are a bit flexible, but great fun is had by all!

Visitors from further afield have included a group of players from Jamberoo and Bundanoon, who drove up the mountains in August, keen to hone their skills at Gateball. Making the most of the unseasonably fine weather, we mixed up the experienced and less experienced players and managed to get in quite a few games over two days. We all enjoyed the visit and hope our visitors will return for our fourth Gateball tournament next February.

We promote our club at every opportunity, so we often get enquiries from people wanting to try out mallet sports. A few games of Croquet or Gateball add an extra dimension to a weekend getaway in our beautiful mountains, with club members on hand to provide instruction. In September, we entertained guests with an introduction to croquet at a wedding in the Everglades Gardens at Leura, which was greatly enjoyed by all. Recently, we were approached by a local ballet school to march with them in the Grand Parade at Blackheath's Rhododendron Festival, as they are performing *Alice in Wonderland*, complete with croquet mallets, for their end of year show. (They will be in costume and we will be slightly more soberly dressed in uniform with trilby hats adorned by playing cards!) An afternoon of mallet sports at our club will be part of the programme of this year's festival too. And we have already been booked for next year's Roaring 20s Festival. Our motto is 'Never say no!'

Club members have enjoyed tournaments at Young and also the National Gateball Championships at Cairnlea and plans are already underway for our own mountains Gateball competition 15-16 February 2014.



*Croquet at
Everglades
Wedding*

*Penny Park
Publicity Officer*

For more information about our club see our great new website www.bluemountaincroquet.wordpress.com

News from Nowra

THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF CROQUET

Sixteen members of Nowra Croquet club contested the annual high-low doubles competition on the weekend of 7-8 September. The competition was a round robin with members enjoying seven games over the weekend.



Phil Pickard and Fay Marks were the winners with 5 wins + 12 on a count back from Gail Williamson and David Turvey with 5 wins + 7 and Keith Poynter and Mike McKenzie 5 wins +1

AGE IS NOT A HANDICAP



Nowra Croquet Club has fifty-one members of all ages and includes Ann Ryan, Peter Loadman and Ted Edmonds who all commenced playing the game at 80. The game has also come to notice with 19 year old Australian Robert Fletcher recently becoming the World Champion.

PROBUS PLAYS CROQUET

Recently the club hosted and entertained local Probus clubs at their lawns at Bomaderry. The Probus clubs included Nowra who combined with Jervis Bay, Shoalhaven Heads Mens and Shoalhaven Heads Womens clubs on one day whilst South Nowra visited on another day. Members of the croquet club introduced the visitors

to the game of Golf Croquet with hands on instruction and encouragement. Whilst some visitors waited for a game they were entertained with croquet ball games by club members, with much fun and enjoyment. On both days, the Probus clubs took advantage of the garden and facilities to provide wonderful Barbecue lunches for all those involved. The Croquet Club is looking forward to return visits from Probus Clubs



NOWRA RETAINS SHOALHAVEN SHIELD

On Friday 27 October 2013 the Milton Ulladulla croquet club travelled to Nowra, to contest the Shoalhaven Challenge between themselves and Nowra the host club for the day. The competition comprised of teams of four players playing Golf Croquet over six rounds under perfect conditions. At the completion of the day, Nowra ram out the winners with an 18/6 win over Milton Ulladulla. Both clubs are looking forward to another return match in the future.



John Gilhooley Milton Ulladulla presenting the shield to Margaret Sawers

Bob Williamson
Publicity Officer

URUNGA CROQUET CLUB **7th Annual Golf Croquet Carnival**

Blue skies and sunshine welcomed thirty-three visiting players to Urunga for their 7th Annual Golf Croquet held 14 – 16 August 2013, and the weather only improved over the three days. Of the thirty-three players, four were playing 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 the event. A special thanks to the Urunga players who stepped in at the last minute due to late withdrawals, two of whom played in their first ever Carnival and were successful in winning their Block.

The Tournament Manager Barb Piggott, who doubled as Tournament Referee and Handicapper, was helped by many Club members including Deb Anderson, Carnival Secretary, Jenni Demkin and her helpers in the kitchen, John Piggott who set the lawns up each morning and the gallant band of referees from both Urunga and the visiting clubs, who were in charge of ninety singles matches. Once again we had a mentoring program for would be referees and this again proved popular with players yet to gain their qualification. Special thanks to all the players who embraced the change in format where you just had a game number and went onto the next available lawn – it certainly made the Manager's job that much easier to have the players chasing up the next lot of games and Referees.

We would also like to thank our sponsor for this event, Coffs Ex-Services Memorial and Sporting Club Ltd for their continued support of our carnivals.

The social aspects of the carnival should not be forgotten and our thanks to Sammy and Suki from Lui's Restaurant at the C.ex Urunga Golf & Sports Club for the scrumptious lunches, the carnival dinner on the Thursday night and finger food during the presentations on the Friday.

We had a keenly contested competition with us having to revert to nett score on most occasions to separate either the winner or runner up. Congratulations to Sandra Jones from Mount Sugarloaf who was the only player to win all five singles games. Congratulations also to John Hincks from Port Macquarie, who pointed out at the Presentation that after seven attempts he was no longer the 'Bridesmaid' having finally secured a win in Block A.

Doubles Winners

Block A

Sylvia Andrews (Port Macquarie) & **Sandra Jones** (Mt Sugarloaf)

Block B

Trevor Thornton (Port Macquarie) & **Ian Gannaway** (South West Rocks)

Block C

Lyn Reardon (Macquarie City) & **Terry Cheetham** (Newcastle NP)

Block D

Bridget Earle (Port Macquarie) & **Jenny Burgess** (Woolgoolga)

Singles

Block A

Winner: **John Hincks** (Port Macquarie)

Runner Up **Graham Innocent** (Dubbo)

Block B

Winner: **Derek Burrows** (Sawtell)

Runner Up **Gary Barenthien** (South West Rocks)

Block C

Winner: **Martin Atkins** (Orange City)

Runner Up **John Ball** (South West Rocks)

Block D

Winner: **Ross McMaster** (Urunga)

Runner Up **Jenni Demkin** (Urunga)

Block E

Winner: **Sandra Jones** (Mount Sugarloaf) \

Runner Up **Jordon Reardon** (Individual)

Block F

Winner: **Roslyn McMaster** (Urunga)

Runner Up **Lyn Reardon** (Macquarie City)

Many complimentary remarks were made about the running of the Carnival with players 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 thirty-six players.



John Hincks & Graham Innocent (winner and runner-up of Singles Block A) with Barb Piggott



Jan Ingham (Macquarie City) played while Martin Atkins (Orange City) watches on

*Barb Piggott
Captain*

FORSTER CROQUET CLUB

Forster Club has a lot to be proud of in recent months and three of the highlights were the Association Spring Carnival, Peter and Elaine Coles successes and a workshop presented by John Levick.

During the week of September 2 – 6 the Forster Croquet Club held their annual Association Spring Carnival. Players came from many different parts of NSW, with some local players competing also. Games were played under the Level/Advanced play, with D Block being Handicap play, time limit of 2 ½ hours. Many of the games were hard fought and had very exciting close finishes, great for the spectators to watch.

Thank you goes to our members who volunteered so much of their time and support to make this Carnival such a successful event. All of the visitors enjoyed the hospitality, the games, the great weather and the nights out.

Winners of the blocks were:

A Block: Robert Kemp - Taree

Runner-up: Jim Hicks - Port Macquarie

B Block: Greg Deakin - Killara

Runner-up: Pam Ingham – Newcastle National Park

C Block: John Coates - Taree

Runner-up: Graham Innocent- Dubbo

D Block: Sandy Coutts – Forster

Runner-up: Carol Armstrong – Forster.

Congratulations to all who entered and we hope to see you next year.

Victory came to Forster Croquet Club Inc not once but three times, and believe it or not, the same couple were the victors. Peter and Elaine Coles, a husband and wife team, recently took out the NSW Golf Croquet Handicap Open Doubles and Peter became the NSW Singles champion in the Golf Croquet Handicap Open Singles. Both competitions were played in perfect weather on beautifully prepared lawns at both Port Macquarie and Taree due to the large numbers of participants from all over NSW.

Peter and Elaine played five games per day over three days against eighteen other couples in the Handicap Doubles. The top four pairs played in the semi-finals and the final was held in Port Macquarie, which meant not only were Peter and Elaine competing at Taree, but they had to 'fly' up to Port to finish off the competition. And finish it off they did, with a 7/6 and 7/6 winning score.

Peter then went on to play over the other four days in the singles, whilst Elaine rested on her laurels, Peter having to compete in six games per day against twenty-four other men and women. Fierce competition saw the top eight players meet their match in the quarter finals and semi-finals on the third day in Port Macquarie. Peter's endurance and fortitude triumphed in this play-off and he went on to compete against Bill Munns from Toronto, NSW on the fourth day at Port Macquarie. The games finished 7/6 and 7/4.

Peter and Elaine then went on to succeed at Manly recently as well. We all congratulate you both for representing our club in such a superb fashion. We admire your resilience, skill and stamina in winning these competitions.

Just in case members needed a bit of coaching to reach this level of expertise, **John Levick**, current Australian Open Golf Croquet Champion and Australian Representative in World Golf Croquet Championships in Cairo conducted a **coaching workshop** at the clubhouse on 18 October. It was the first wet day we have had in ages which hindered operations a little, but forty-two members attended and were treated to some expert advice which we are all hoping to put into practice shortly.



Association Winners



Peter & Elaine Coles—Winners' Smiles



John Levick in Coaching Mode

*Sandra Christenson
Secretary*

YOUNG CROQUET CLUB

Cherry Blossom Spring Carnival 10-13 October

Our annual Golf Croquet Doubles competition was played over four lovely spring days and was once again enjoyed by all entrants. It is great to welcome new faces and renew acquaintance with many of our 'regulars' including players who travelled from as far afield as Bairnsdale. It is this ongoing support that contributes to making this a successful and enjoyable tournament.

Eight places in this carnival are held for local players and it is always pleasing to see some of the 'newcomers' to our club being given the opportunity to play in a competition with home support. This gives them confidence to then enter for other tournaments. Each block was very closely contested and this provided challenging games for all competitors.

RESULTS

Competition 1

Block A Winners: Elsin Dilley & Hilary White

Runners-up: Doug Leabeater & Ted Lyng

Block B Winners: Jeff Pumpa & Jan Norwood

Runners-up: Yvonne Grattan & Helen McKay

Block C Winners: Roly Hall & Lorraine Friend

Runners-up: Geoff Akers & Jan Vaughan

Competition 2

Block A Winners: John Friend & Jeff Pumpa

Runners-up: Elsin Dilley & Reigh McCoy

Block B Winners: Joan Christopher & Jan Vaughan

Runners-up: Ted Lyng & Sue Luckie

Block C Winners: Davena Wallis & Helen McKay

Runners-up: Lesley Zickerfoose & Geoff Akers

Many thanks to our non-playing referees, Shirley Close, Bill Simon, Chris Christopher and also to players Peter Moffat and Judy Chidgey who assisted as required.

Thanks to our many sponsors for their ongoing support and thanks also to those members who prepared the courts to a very high standard and to all who assisted with the catering and in many other ways to make this carnival a great success.



Happy prize-winners Geoff Akers (Wollongong) & Lesley Zickerfoose (Young)

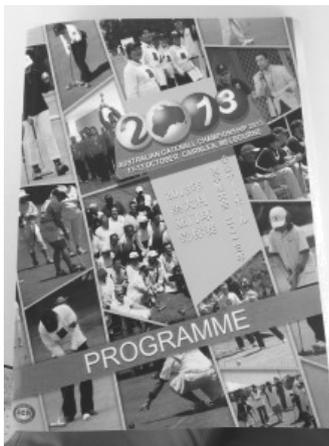


Popular winners Lorraine Friend (Blue Mts) and Roly Hall (Rich River)



Referee Bill Simon in action

*Jackie Woolfe
Tournament Secretary*



Congratulations to Canberra who played two tight games of gateball against Indonesian and Chinese teams to win the Australian Championship at Cairnlea recently.

Canberra's achievement is notable because they defeated the Fu Jian club that won the World Gateball Championship two years ago.

Although only one player from that world championship team was playing it could well be an indication that Aussie teams may increasingly be able to hold their own in international competition. To read more about this outstanding achievement for CNSW mallet sports, see gateball.com.au for pictures, scores etc. Subscribe to the gateball website by entering your email address on the right of the page.

Canberra's Winning Team

Article supplied by John Park (Chair Gateball Committee)

Photos from the Gateball website



TAREE-ON-MANNING GOLF CROQUET CARNIVAL

The ninth annual Taree-on-Manning Golf Croquet Carnival was held from Wednesday 9 to Friday 11 October. This year it was an all 'Singles' competition as a 'Doubles' event had been held during May.

Three Blocks of eleven players took part in the Carnival. During the three days of competition each player had ten 'handicap' games. Many came on Tuesday afternoon to practice on Taree's three courts. Players represented Clubs as diverse as Wollongong, Orange, Dubbo and Urunga as well as Newcastle and Mid-North Coast. Some had competed in earlier Taree Carnivals, but for others it was their first visit.

Competition began in pleasant weather on Wednesday morning, continued through a very hot Thursday and concluded on a much cooler Friday. Thursday was by far the hottest day in the nine year history of the carnival. Some referees put up with more of the heat than players as they endured consecutive games – their effort was much appreciated.

Many of the players adjourned to the 'Sailo's Restaurant' at the local Aquatic Club on Thursday evening to partake of the Carnival Dinner – an opportunity to relax, talk with fellow players from other Clubs and enjoy delicious food.

There were many close games during the Carnival, while the final results were also close, especially in Block A where the winner won seven games but was followed by four players with six wins each. Four more players ended with four wins each. Yet this was the Block with the greatest spread of handicaps. Most competitors played some games on our 'infamous' Court 1 with its slope – more visually predominant at the moment because of the wall which in coming weeks will enable the court to be levelled. This should be the last Carnival held on Court 1 in its original condition.

The Carnival concluded with a short ceremony during which prizes were awarded to the first three place getters in each Block, more food was consumed and all helpers were thanked. Without enthusiastic Club members to prepare food, prepare the courts and clean up afterwards, Carnivals could not be held. Also greatly appreciated are the referees. Some came from Port Macquarie and Forster while others were carnival competitors and Taree members.

Taree members who manned the kitchen and prepared the courts were well versed in their tasks as they had fulfilled the same tasks only three weeks earlier when Taree Club, in conjunction with Port Macquarie Club, had hosted the NSW Golf Croquet Handicap Open Singles and Doubles Events. Some of the referees had also taken part in both events.

Results:

Block A:

Winner: Graham Innocent (Dubbo)
Second: Liz Montague (Killara)
Third: Ray Vize (Forster)

Block B:

Winner: Greg Freeman (Port Macquarie)
Second: Anne Freeman (Port Macquarie)
Third: Mary Greig (Forster)

Block C:

Winner: Helen Maybury (Taree)
Second: Jessie Aurisch (Forster)
Third: Pat Johnston (Forster)



The Winners:

From left Block A: 1st, 2nd, 3rd; Block B: 1st, 2nd, 3rd; Block C: 3rd, 1st.



A view over the recently constructed retaining wall and Court 1 to the Clubhouse



Spectators enjoying the shade

Tom Akre
Taree Carnival Manager

Tom also took the photos

Zone Championship for Association Croquet

Gloucester hosted the Zone Championships for Association Croquet - Gloucester, Taree, Forster and Port Macquarie are in the zone. It was held 15-16 October, and the weather was perfect, we had no wind which has been a problem for many.

The winners were:

Platinum: John Wellard (Taree)

Gold: Archie McCulloch (Forster)

Silver: David Wellington (Forster)

Bronze: Paul Mitchell (Port Macquarie)

There were twelve players in all for the event. The winners will be presented with their trophy at the Christmas Party in December, also to be hosted by the Gloucester Croquet Club Inc. Everyone enjoyed the hospitality of the Gloucester members.



One player in action while the other watches on



*Paddy Stevens
Games Captain - Association*



Friendship Day at Sutherland

18 August

Another wonderful August day and our fantastic team of workers have arrived to prepare our club and lawns for the annual Friendship Day. We are anticipating a turn-up of sixty visitors and members from Jamberoo, Southern Highlands, Nowra, Sydney Club, Port Hacking, Wollongong, Hurstville and, of course, Sutherland.

There were two lawns set out for 20 minutes Golf Croquet games and one lawn for those who desired to play Association Croquet. As well as the Organised Croquet games there were a number of skill challenges around the lawns for everyone to test their ball skills.

Come 12.30 it was time to replenish ourselves over a lovely meal prepared by Bob one of our volunteer cooks. This gave us all a chance to discuss how well (or not) we had played during the morning. After lunch and the Raffle and Lucky Door Prize Draw it was time to do battle again.

At the end of an enjoyable day of croquet our friends (either newly made or re-acquainted) departed.

I would like to express my gratitude to our fantastic club members for their tireless efforts before and during the day. I am sure everyone had a great day. Thank you all.

*Tony McArthur
President*

Vale

Chris Crellin, from Taree Croquet Club, died suddenly in late September. Chris was recently retired and an enthusiastic player of both Association and Golf Croquet. He was a Golf Croquet Referee and, a few days before his death, was accredited as a Golf Croquet Coach. He had done all his preparation for assessment as an Association Croquet Beginner Coach.

He will be sadly missed for a long time by all who loved and respected him.

Port Macquarie's GC Carnival

Port Macquarie Croquet Club hosted its annual Golf Croquet Carnival from Monday 9 to Wednesday 11 September.

Late withdrawals meant that only thirty-one visiting players remained in the draw, with the late vacancies filled by local players of similar handicaps.

All thirty-one visitors played in the doubles matches. These were highly competitive, partly because the four divisions were seeded, with the top eight players playing in Block A and so on. Consequently only one pair – Wendy Forbes of Urunga and Bev Murray of Gloucester - went through the three matches undefeated.

Block winners were as follows:

Block A: Ray Vize (Forster) and Herman Camphuis (Port Macquarie)

Block B: Elaine Coles (Forster) and Yvonne Bagnall (Gloucester)

Block C: Wendy Forbes (Urunga) and Bev Murray (Gloucester)

Block D: Robyn Roberts (Gloucester) and Pat Johnson (Forster)

In the singles events, the organising committee experimented with a rolling draw. Games were given a number but no lawn, time or colours. Matches were placed on the lawns in numerical order as soon as a lawn became available so that there were always four matches in progress on the two lawns all day. As a result, play finished every day soon after 3pm, saving an estimated hour of play each day.

All singles Blocks were keenly contested, with only Sandy Coutts winning all 5 matches. In Block A, despite the presence of Jim Hicks, Graham Innocent and Joe Dimech, Bill Munns was the only player to register 4 wins and was duly crowned the champion for 2013.

The results were as follows:

Block A:	Winner	Bill Munns (Toronto)
	Runner-up	Joe Dimech (Taree)
Block B:	Winner	Sandy Coutts (Forster)
	Runner-up	Herman Camphuis (Pt Macq)
Block C:	Winner	John Ikin (Gloucester)
	Runner-up	Elaine Coles (Forster)
Block D:	Winner	Greg Freeman (Pt Macq)
	Runner-up	Pam Faber (Macquarie City)
Block E:	Winner	Clare Vize (Forster)
	Runner-up	Cathryn Parry (Macq City)
Block F:	Winner	Pam Wiemers (Woolgoolga)
	Runner-up	Pat Johnson (Forster)

Away from the lawns, the players enjoyed the customary generosity of the Port Macquarie members. Biscuits,



slices, cakes etc were available all day and a selection of sandwiches and soups at lunchtimes. Anne Freeman and her kitchen helpers worked tirelessly to meet the needs of all the players. Herman Camphuis again provided free photos of the play; these were eagerly grabbed by the players, although I suspect it was often to prevent anyone else seeing them!

So many of the Port Macquarie members contributed to the success of the carnival. That, above all, is why it is one of the most popular events of the croquet calendar and why so many players make Port Macquarie their home for a few days each September.

The Carnival had a new sponsor this year in Australian Unity - the club hopes it is just the beginning of a long and mutually beneficial arrangement.

John Hincks

Photo collage: Herman Camphuis

Holroyd Activities

Holroyd held “May Day” Games on 4 May this year. We certainly all had a wonderful day, using a pole for our May Pole, with ribbons of the primary colours (blue, red, black, yellow) being danced around the pole. Morning tea and lunch were provided for a nominal fee of \$10. The day was perfect weatherwise.

Although several clubs were invited only Epping club accepted. So although small in number a great social day was had by all. We met, exchanged ideas, chatted and played our lovely game of croquet.

Bob Green showed us a few “tricks of the trade”, so to speak, so we learnt some extras. We only played Golf Croquet as it would have taken too long to run Association Croquet games



The usual dilemma—what should we do next?



Club Secretary, Ruth Duignan, successfully makes a hoop

**Bev Harkness
Publicity Officer**

Bev also supplied the photos

Northern Rivers GC Tournament

Glorious weather during August was welcomed by Lismore Croquet Club as they were hosting the Northern Rivers Golf Croquet Tournament, sponsored by Lismore Workers Club. This is an annual event played each year in late August over 8 days, followed by the Association Croquet Events which are played in Ballina, in September. Golf croquet is a game growing in popularity all over the State with players outnumbering the traditional Association players in most Northern Rivers Clubs. Ricochet is another mallet sport growing in popularity in Ballina & Lismore clubs.

Twenty-four players from Alstonville, Ballina, Ballina Cherry Street and Lismore Clubs competed over eight extremely warm days in doubles and singles events. There was a huge range of talent displayed, from novice players playing in their first tournament with Bernadette Ryan defeating James Yeo, both from Lismore. On the final day two teams from Lismore contested the Open Doubles event, The Crusader Cup, with Deborah Matten and Fay Ross defeating George Schumacher and Fred Moss in the best of three games, for the second year running.

Fantastic sportsmanship, new friendships and the chance to play players from surrounding clubs makes this one of the highlights of the North Coast Croquet Calendar.



Del Casey (Cherry St Ballina) in action while Effie Ablett (Alstonville) watches and waits her turn



Val Mitchell (Lismore)



Merle Larsen (Lismore), in front facing camera



Lyn Lynch (Lismore)



Fred Moss (Lismore)

Fay Ross (Lismore)

Photos by Barry Waters (Lismore)



**CNSW Handicap Doubles and Singles
Port Macquarie & Taree Croquet Clubs
14-20 September**

DOUBLES

The CNSW Handicap Doubles was played from 14-17 September with eighteen pairs divided into two blocks of nine. The handicaps ranged from 1 to 10 with some pairs giving away up to 9 extra turns. The top two pairs in each block qualified for the semi-finals.

Block A turned out to be a very tight affair with Don Rankin (Mt Sugarloaf) and Bill Munns (Toronto) tying on 6 wins from 8 with Elaine and Peter Coles (Forster). As net hoops were equal Elaine and Peter qualified first as they had won the block match.

Block B proved to be equally close with Maitland Muddlers John Compton and Peter Smith finishing with 7 wins to top the block. Janine and Chris Crellin (Taree) gained second spot in a count back from South West Rocks pair Paul Pickett and Ian Gannaway.

In two tight semi-finals Coles & Coles and Compton & Smith qualified for the final. The final became a nail biter with the Coles duo edging out the Maitland duo 7/6, 7/6, the match finishing just before the rain set in. Compton had the opportunity to take the match into a third but his half metre clearing shot at 13 jumped over the target ball leaving Peter Coles with a simple hoop shot. Peter said thank you and finished the match.

The complete results can be found on

www.croquetscores.com

SINGLES

The CNSW Handicap Singles was played from 17-20 September with twenty four competitors divided into two blocks of twelve. Each block played one day at Taree and one day at Port Macquarie before the finals were played at Port. Clubs represented were Mt Sugarloaf, Sawtell, South West Rocks, Taree, Port Macquarie, Forster, Branxton, Sutherland, Toronto and Maitland.

In Block A, NSW State member Joe Dimech (Taree) sailed through his matches winning 10 from 11. His only loss was to block runner-up Rod Dillon (Branxton) whose handicap dropped from 10 to 8 over the rounds. Peter Coles (Forster) and Brenda Wild (Mt Sugarloaf) made up the top four.

Block B was dominated by Bill Munns (Toronto) with 10 wins. He was followed by John Pace (Maitland), Sandy Coutts (Forster) and Paul Mitchell (Port Macquarie) all on 7 wins. All four players reduced their handicap during block play.

Paul Mitchell provided the upset of the quarter-finals defeating Joe 7/4, 7/6. Peter Coles defeated John Pace, Sandy defeated Rod Dillon and Bill struggled to defeat Brenda Wild.

Favourites and form players Peter and Bill won through to the final. The final was an enthralling and high quality contest with fortunes fluctuating wildly in game one. Peter had one extra turn each game and used them productively although desperately in game 1. Bill ran away to a big lead in game one leading 6/4 and Peter overshooting 11. At this stage Bill had not missed anything that he had aimed at and some he hadn't. After some manoeuvring Peter took his extra turn and deliberately jawed in 11 from 45 degrees and 2 metres – a brave shot. Peter won 11 but 12 turned into a real contest with this hoop taking 20 minutes. Bill had missed one roquet at 11, he now missed another at 12 and one at 13. Both proved catastrophic as Peter ran both to finish 7/6 up. Peter was dominant in game two taking the match in 2 games 7/6, 7/4.

CNSW wishes to thank Port Macquarie and Taree Croquet Clubs for allowing this competition to be played on their lawns. Thanks also to all the club members who set up lawns, set up hoops, prepared lunches, made cakes and slices, recorded and refereed. These competitions cannot run without willing helpers. Once again the NSW Handicap Competitions proved to be a great success in a country setting.



John Compton

**Gold Brooch
26-30 August**

Winner: John Gilhooly (Milton-Ulladulla)
Runner-up: Neil Hartley (Cammeray)

The other contestants were Mark Callan, William Gilchrist, David Stanton and John Bartrop. Apart from John who is a member of Killara Club, the other players were all from Cammeray Club.

**GC Division 1 Doubles
24 October**

Winner: Nick Macoun (Killara) & John Eddes (Sutherland)
Runner-up: John Bennett & David Woods (both Sutherland)

There were two other pairs involved, one from Sydney Club and another from Sutherland.

**GC Division 1 Singles
25-26 October**

Winner: Nick Macoun (Killara)
Runner-up: Ron Johnstone (Sutherland)

Five other contestants came from Canberra, Sutherland, and Toronto.

NSW AC Singles Championships

Winner: Peter Landrebe

Runner-up: Ian Dumerque

Y Event: Alan Walsh

Runner-up: Nick Chapman

Plate Event

Winner: Stephen Howes

Runner-up: David Stanton



Champion of Champions GC 8-10 November

Winner: Alison Sharpe

Runner-up: Joe Dimech

Alison is now the Champion of Champions for both Association and Golf Croquet. Well done!



Striking Fault - Golf Croquet

A striking fault, it will occur,
if you should double tap,
crush against a hoop or peg
or touch ball with your cap.

Dig the lawn or play before
another ball has stopped,
push or pull or kick the mallet,
you know you will be copped.

Don't allow your body
to touch or brush the ball,
just strike it with end face of ...
the mallet, standing tall.

If your mallet touches the ball,
your turn has come to an end,
so step aside and kick yourself, for
not doing what you intend.

Learn the fine points of our game;
you won't get sore or dirty.
Open up the book of rules;
have a gander at page thirty.

For striking faults, your opponents choose
to replace or leave balls stay;
then, all players continue the game
in a completely normal way.

The CroakyPoet.

GC Spring Carnival at Nowra



Nowra croquet club hosted its annual spring golf croquet carnival from Friday 18 to Monday 21 October. In all, twenty-seven players from Toronto, Jamberoo, Orange City, Killara, Young, Wollongong, Dubbo, Forster and Nowra competed in handicapped groups.

Players enjoyed the lawns and facilities of the club, whilst renewing and making new friends. The weather was fine but extremely hot. Whilst some clubs travelled daily to the event, others stayed and attended an evening dinner on the Saturday night. On the final day a barbecue lunch was provided by the club and winners were presented with winning certificates by local councillor Chris Robertson representing the Shoalhaven Mayor. Words of gratitude were made to the Captain of Nowra, Margaret Sawers, and club members for their efforts in hosting a very successful carnival.



V-President David Turvey, Captain Margaret Sawers, Referee Terry Abbott, with Councillor Clive Robertson SCC



Some of the day's action

Bob Williamson

Bluey's Report on the WCF Interstate Shield

Hi, my name is Bluey and I am the mascot for the NSW Golf Croquet Team. This is the fifth year I have been the team mascot. I have been so excited, as my state team will be playing in NSW in various grounds in the beautiful Hunter Valley against all the other states. When we arrived at Maitland to compete in the WCF Interstate Shield, I met up with the rest of my team members, the ones I already knew - John Levick, Pam Gentle, Peter Freer, Chris Pont, Joe Dimech, Ros Johnstone, Trevor Black, & Barb Piggott and I met Brenda Wild & John Compton our reserves and our manager Peter Smith who will be invaluable supporters and part of my team. It was lovely seeing Frankie the Flamingo again and Emma the Emu who will do their bit to cheer on my team.

Prior to the competition commencing, my team was given a mayoral welcome at the Maitland town hall where they met up with the members of the other state teams and renewed many friendships. Unfortunately I was not invited to this event and had to wait until tomorrow to meet up with my mates, Terry the Tassie Tiger, Queenie from Queensland (who is so beautiful) and meeting Victor from Victoria and SAM the South Australian Mascot.

I feel so important being dressed in my State Team Colours, Navy Track Pants, pale blue and white shirt and white hat. I had NSW in letters on my back, a Waratah on my hat and shirt and the official state badge pinned to my shirt and this year I also have a lovely team scarf, it makes me look so smart.

On Day 1 my team played the West Australian team and I would have been lonely as West Australia did not have a mascot, so Brenda carried me around with her to the various games and we barracked so hard for our team. My team played some great croquet but were beaten 6:4 matches. Of the forty games played, nineteen went to 7:6, the standard from both teams was very high.

On Day 2 we played Queensland. I am so disappointed, Queenie, whom I have been waiting all year to see again, because we have such a good time together and she is so beautiful, did not come down with her team this year. My team again played some great croquet, but Queensland took out this rubber 9:5. I also had another worry today. Nigel, a real live dog, was eyeing me off thinking I was a toy fluffy bear, I had to inform him I was the team mascot and tell him to leave me alone. In my disappointment at not seeing Queenie, I must confess I did not barrack as hard as I should have for my team.

On Day 3 we played Victoria and I was so happy as Victor and I had a lovely time playing together, and barracking for our respective teams. Victor and I remarked on how well both our teams are playing and how high the standard of competition is. Victoria who emerged the overall champions, took out this rubber 8:4.

Day 4: Today should be great, my team are all fired up and I get to spend time with SAM, and we will have a wonderful time together. The croquet is so exciting today,

SAM and I sat together and barracked for our respective teams. After the doubles we were one match down, and after the first round of singles both teams were even. The winner on the day will be the team that wins more matches in the reverse singles and were they exciting with us winning 6 of the 8 matches and winning the rubber overall 8:2.

Day 5: I have been so looking forward to today, Terry the Tassie Tiger and I have a lot of fun together. I have to be a little careful of him as he is quite naughty. My team is playing at EDSACC today and I took a little time off to visit the Entrance where they feed the pelicans, it was fun. When I came back somebody, and my team blamed Terry, tried to tie me to the rafters with my scarf, but my team rescued me. My team played really great croquet and won today's rubber 13:0

My team would like to congratulate Victoria on retaining the WCF Interstate Shield, and congratulate all the other states on the wonderful croquet we all enjoyed.

We had a wonderful party atmosphere at the presentation dinner, we caught up with all the friends my team has made over the course of this tournament and I partied on with Terry, Victor & Sam. I presented Terry with our lovely CNSW badge, which he said he would wear with pride. It was bitter sweet however because Queenie was not there to enjoy herself.

My team is already looking forward to challenging for the WCF Interstate Shield again next year.

*Bluey (NSW Team Mascot)
(ably assisted by Ros Johnstone)*



*Winning Team
from Victoria*



*Runner-up
Team from
West Australia*

Team Photos were taken by Kevin Parkes when they were playing at Toronto Club.

Sawtell AC Carnival

We like to think of ourselves as “Sunny Sawtell” – however there are some who call us “soggy Sawtell”. Over the four days of our October AC Carnival we lived up to both names!

Pictures show Brian Manton playing in the sunshine on day one – then helping to push water off court 1 the next day.



Wednesday and Thursday were warm and sunny with a tricky wind blowing. Friday saw a break in the long dry spell with about 25 ml falling. Play was stopped for a short while but we were able to complete all but one game on the day – the last game of the day was pegged down with 15 minutes to play due to the water on the court.

The event started with a “get to know you” doubles event. Everyone had three x 1 hour games in the morning. Singles started after lunch. Like many AC event our numbers were down, but we had two blocks of six players and a block of four which played a double round robin event.

Doubles Winners

Block 1: Dick Smith and Katrina Strick.

Block 2: Robert Kemp and John Coates

Singles Winners

Block A:

Winner: Dick Smith

Runner-up: John Byers

Block B:

Winner: Tom Akre

Runner-up: Barb Piggott

Block C:

Winner: Sandy Coutts

Runner-up: Derek Burrows

Saturday saw a cool morning which developed into a sunny afternoon. The Bar-be-cue prior to presentation was enjoyed on the lawn on a perfect balmy evening.

Jenny Arnold (Tournament Manager)

Muswellbrook Croquet Club Inc Glenda Downs Gala Day

The weather was very favourable on Friday 6 September for Muswellbrook Croquet Club's 8th Annual Glenda Downs Gala Day for Golf Croquet. Muswellbrook's members were joined by players from Moonan and Toronto to enjoy this fun day in memory of former Club Captain Glenda Downs. Glenda's enthusiasm was a driving force in the Muswellbrook Club and she is still missed today by all members who knew her.

The day consisted of five rounds with morning tea, lunch and a raffle thrown into the mix. The visitors had good results in the croquet and raffle. Toronto couple Robert and Diana Knox were the winning team with runners up Moonan pair, Cath Wright and Esther Morgan.

Genevieve Parkes (Toronto), Cath Wright (Moonan) and Eric Lennox (Muswellbrook) walked away with the raffle prizes.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day and we'll be doing it again in 2014 on Monday 25 August.



Winners Robert & Diana Knox with Pam Newton who donated the perpetual trophy for the event.



Shirley Feeney, Helen Hogan (seated) with runners-up, Esther Morgan and Cath Wright

*Stephanie Day
Treasurer*

Why would you be a referee?

There are many positive responses to this question. I can understand them all as I have been accredited for 15 years. But recently I asked this question, as did all the nearby players, when I received what can only be described as 'verbal abuse'.

The referee and opponent of a player were waiting at corner 4 for a game to begin – and waiting and waiting – until the player in question was located in a shelter on another court. A quiet brief apology was all that was needed. Instead, it was pointed out loudly that since this person was not far away, we should have come and found him earlier.

A little later, as the game was approaching hoop 2, there was a brief pause while the first game cleared a space for the player to play through. He called for the clock to be stopped – I had asked all referees to stop clocks **only for significant hold ups**, not for a pause of a few seconds.

Then it started – I am not going to quote the comments made to me – and everyone nearby was horrified at his raised voice and what he said. I decided NOT to issue a warning under Rule 14 [Etiquette] as I believed that it would inflame the situation further – so I turned and walked away. Days later I was still reeling from this unwarranted attack, and would rather not ever come across this player again.



Jan Sage
CNSW SDR-AC

2013 COACHING UPDATE

Coaching has been extremely busy in 2013 with over 300 players attending either Workshops to qualify as coaches or the Improve your Game Workshops conducted throughout the State. We now have twenty-two Level O coaches and nineteen Level 1 Golf Croquet coaches trained under the Croquet Australia system that was introduced this year and eight new Association Beginner coaches and one Association Level 1 reaccrredited coach in NSW. I would like to thank Pam Gentle who assisted in qualifying the new coaches in both AC and GC as it cut down on my travel commitments throughout the year.

Once again the Improve your Game Workshops proved popular with players of all levels of experience with 28 attending Association Workshops and 231 attending the Golf Croquet Workshops. Thirteen Clubs throughout the state hosted these workshops from Walla Walla in the south to Lismore in the north and west to Orange City. All Clubs made me extremely welcome and the enthusiasm of players attending made the long days and time away from home very rewarding. I apologise to the Clubs who had made requests for Workshops that I have not been able to complete in 2013, but be assured you will be first to be offered Workshops in 2014. Unfortunately distance, playing and family commitments contributed to my not

being able to attend your Club.

A number of requests have been made during my trips to Clubs on handouts on the teaching points that are covered during the Workshops. I have listened to your requests and have commenced work on a number of handouts, when these have been finalised and reviewed by other Coaches, I will place them on the Coaching page of the CNSW website. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Wendy Davidson, a past SDC, who has given approval for me to use sections of her notes to compile my handouts.

Unfortunately a number of coaches have been moved to the Inactive List this year as they failed to reaccrredit and therefore are not listed in the Yearbook. Despite numerous attempts to highlight the requirement to reaccrredit, only two players from the fourteen listed on the CNSW Website since last December contacted me about reaccrrediting and one wished to be removed from the list and the other has completed the requirements for reaccrreditation and is therefore current for a further four years.

Those players requiring reaccrrediting in 2014 are now listed on the Coaches page of CNSW Website and should complete the form available on that page so action can be taken to reaccrredit them. It is the player's responsibility to ensure they remain current and maintain their Logbook and while every effort is made to ensure players are aware they are due for reaccrreditation I don't have the time to chase individual players.

Any player who would like to join the coaching ranks should also check the details of how to become a coach on the CNSW website. It is still my hope that by the end of 2015 we will have at least one coach in every Club in NSW.



Barb Piggott
State Director Coaching



Some errors occurred in the last issue of the Newsletter. My apologies.

p1: Wendy Dickson had her name spelt incorrectly

p6: Near top of second column, **Doug Leabeater** was shown as from Blue Mountains rather than **Young Croquet Club**

p11: *Missing from the ending of the report on Division 1 GC Pennants:*

The winners, for the sixth Consecutive year, and going through undefeated were the players from Maitland. The tussle for runner up resulted in Sutherland edging out Cammeray. Congratulations to Maitland and Sutherland. We look forward to an even bigger (and better) competition in 2014 and encourage other clubs to enter a Division 1 team.

p15: John Levick is from Newcastle National Park (not Cammeray)

The Mosman Prize for Golf Croquet 2013

On 25, 26 and 27 October Mosman Croquet Club held its annual open event for golf croquet players: The Mosman Prize. Fourteen players from Mosman and ten from around the state battled for the substantial prizes generously donated by Geoff Grist of McGrath Real Estate, Mosman. First Prize was \$250, second \$150, third \$100 and fourth \$50. Over the two and a half days players faced an intense program of matches, with up to five matches a day. Fortunately the weather remained fairly cool.

The players were divided into two blocks seeded by similar handicaps. In the Blue Block the top seed John Fransen had a tough battle as his 2 handicap meant he faced 47 extra turns for his opponents over his eleven games. In the end the clear winner of the block was Michael Strickland from Mosman with 9 wins from his 11 games. Michael's future opponents will be pleased to know his handicap is down to four. Behind him were four players with 7 wins, but Annette du Preez from Cammeray got the edge with the most net points.

In the higher handicap Red Block many entrants were experiencing their first taste of open competition. It was gratifying to see the marked improvement in the standard of play of these newcomers over the tournament. Ann de Mestre from Mosman will always remember her 20 yard hoop shot as time was called that forced the game to a golden hoop. Similarly Debbie Morgan from Sutherland and Ryann Michaels from Mosman will remember their epic battle for the last hoop after the bell. For twenty minutes they traded shots before Ryann finally ran the hoop. For Debbie though there was the satisfaction of coming in second place in the block. Again there was a clear winner of the block. David Gibson from Manly had nine wins. David also had the satisfaction of winning two matches in succession by jumping through hoop 13.

In the finals' play-off for First/Second place, Michael Strickland beat David Gibson. In the play-off for Third/Fourth place, Annette du Preez beat Debbie Morgan.

Thank you to all at Mosman who contributed to the success of our new tournament, especially our referee, Robin Potter. Thanks to Avril Paynter who did a wonderful job organising the gourmet catering and to all the ladies who helped her.

Thank you to all the competitors for the way in which they entered into the spirit of the three days. With such a tight program over two and a half days it was essential to keep things moving. But there was time for a bit of socialising which is an essential part of visiting Mosman. We enjoyed putting on the show and look forward to welcoming everybody back again next year,

Ron Humpherson
Tournament Manager



Winner of The Mosman Prize 2013, Michael Strickland (left) with runner-up, David Gibson (Manly Club)

Third place winner, on right, Annette du Preez (Cammeray & Manly Clubs) and fourth place-getter, Debbie Morgan (Sutherland Club).



Makara Novice Singles.

Holyroyd Croquet Club hosted the Makara Novice Singles on behalf of the Makara Committee. Due to unforeseen, tragic traffic delays, the commencement of the first day's play was delayed by over an hour, when several players and referees could not arrive on time.

There was great anticipation amongst the contestants, that some good games were to be fought was evidenced by all the excitement and nervous energy in the air, with each participant wondering if they were about to become winners.

The weather remained fine for the first day, but day 2 due to the bush fires proved to be rather smoky, which gradually dissipated as the day wore on.

After some possible disruptions to the schedule, the day got underway with some exciting games for the many spectators to observe.

All contestants and officials were presented with their anniversary lapel pins which shows a pearl emu [the Makara emblem] on a black background, which is very striking.

Despite the threat of rain, the weather prevailed giving us a very pleasant day for the last day of competition.

Strathfield players were very tenacious opponents, who taught Holyroyd players lots. Special thanks to Heather Smallbone and Ron Johnstone for refereeing.

Elaine Pryde
Venue Manager

45th MANLY SEA BREEZE TOURNAMENT 8-19 OCTOBER 2013

We had sixty-eight players this year, some of whom played in a combination of six or seven GC and AC events. Ten players played in both codes, twenty-seven in Golf only and thirty-one in Association only.

The A Grade Singles of the Golf was won by **Peter Coles** of Forster CC, with the runner-up Jim Hicks of Port Macquarie CC; the B Grade Singles was won by **Debbie Morgan** of Sutherland CC, with the runner-up Evelyn Humpherson of Mosman CC. The Golf Doubles was won by **Elaine & Peter Coles** of Forster CC.

In Association, we had a record number of eight Prestige players and the winner was **Neil Hartley** of Cammeray CC; the Gold Singles was won by **Michael Strickland** of Mosman CC; the Silver Singles was won by **Ron Humpherson** of Mosman CC and the Bronze Singles by **Steve Miles** of Cammeray CC.

All the games in the whole Tournament were played in a good spirit and everyone had a good time and many left saying "See you at Sea Breeze next year!"



Michael Strickland, winner of the AC Gold Singles, lines up a shot



Jim Hicks with Manly Mayor & Club Patron, Jean Hay

Peg Jones

Peg also supplied the photos

"Under Lights" Doubles Tournament – The 2013 Sequel - Maitland Croquet Club

Building on the success of its inaugural "Under Lights" Golf Croquet Doubles Tournament in 2012, Maitland Croquet Club held "The Sequel" on Saturday 2 November 2013. Forty players, representing Clubs from Forster, Myall Park, Newcastle, Branxton, Macquarie City, Mt Sugarloaf, Toronto and Maitland took to the lawns at 4.30pm. Four blocks, on four three-quarter lawns, ready for four matches each timed at 40 minutes.

The first two rounds were completed before a break for a BBQ / Salad Dinner, and then, out to the lawns for more challenge – and by this time it was dark enough for the lights to kick in – a very pleasant way to hold a competition. Unfortunately, some competitors found it difficult to complete Hoop 1, sometimes taking up to 20 minutes of their time – but the outcomes were interesting and matches were won.

A great night, finishing about 10pm – but one enjoyed by all. What a way to spend a Saturday night!

The winners were:

- Block A – Ray Vize and Sandy Coutts (Forster)**
- Block B – John Purnell and Rita Murphy (Maitland)**
- Block C – Ron King and Rob Armstrong (Maitland)**
- Block D – Judy Nicod and Judy Chidgey
(Newcastle)**

Thanks to the Maitland Croquet Club members who helped with the lawns, the timekeeping and scoring, the refereeing and the catering and barbecuing. As we all know, without member help an event does not run successfully. Well done Maitland !!

*Robyn Compton
Tournament Organiser*



The Newsletter is of sponsored by
the NSW Department
Sport & Recreation

30th Makara Results (contd from cover page)

Novices Singles.

Winner: Ruth Duignan (Holyroyd)

Runner up: Susan Howland. (Strathfield)

The novices enjoyed the tournament and showed great promise with half the field achieving at least one peg out, one player was very excited as it was her first peg out. Elaine Pryde, who managed this tournament gave our committee a very succinct report, which has been reproduced as a separate article at the bottom of page 17.

Bronze Singles

In a closely contested tournament the co-winners were **Charles Britton [Strathfield] and Brian Doughan [Strathfield]**. All players got into the swing of things with every game on the last day being pegged out.

Platinum Gold Singles.

Winner: Bob Green (Epping)

Runner up : Jean Pack (Milton Ulladulla).

I would like to thank the players in this event, most of whom have travelled a distance to play and all of whom have supported the Makara for many years.

Silver Bronze Handicap Doubles.

Winners: Heather Smallbone (Strathfield) & Ros Johnstone (Sutherland)

Runners up: Ann Shaddick & Brian Doughan (both Strathfield).

This tournament came down to the wire, with three pairs in the running to win when the last game was to be played. Heather & Ros came out winners of this game and therefore won the overall tournament. Twenty members mainly from Marrickville and Strathfield clubs came to watch and enjoy both the play and the social aspects of such a competition.

Golf Croquet

Where association croquet appears to be going through a lean time, golf croquet is going from strength to strength. The open singles fielded 7 players, Division 2 (6 -12) had twelve players and the handicap doubles sixteen pairs competing.

Open Golf Croquet Singles.

Winner: Ros Johnstone (Sutherland)

Runner-up: David Woods (Sutherland)

This event was played at Sutherland in atrocious conditions on both of the two days.

Unfortunately three players had to withdraw due to work commitments and ill health. The balance of the field seemed to be able to complete each game with due haste. I feel the attitude of a quick game is an appropriate game in the weather that prevailed.

Division 2 Golf Croquet Singles.

Winner: Debbie Morgan (Sutherland)

Runner-up: Wall Fernance (Sutherland)

This event was played and Coogee Club and I would like to compliment the players who showed stoic acceptance of weather conditions, and loss of a lawn due to flooding which caused some long waits for games. All games were

of a high standard, allowing for the weather conditions, and the last game of the tournament was a nail biter as the outcome of that game effected the first four placings.

Open Golf Croquet Handicap Doubles.

Winners: Bernie McAlary & Carol Hayes (both Wollongong)

Runners-up: Marie McMullen & Margaret Morters (both Sutherland)

The finals scores were 7-6, 4-7, 7-6, in a nail biting 3hour 15 minute contest.

This year 16 pairs competed. It was pleasing to see a number of players, playing in their first tournament and enjoying their experience. We all had a great time, enjoying the croquet and catching up with friends.

Hurstville hosted our final day with the finals of the Open golf croquet doubles handicap followed by an excellent anniversary party and presentation. Katherine Love did all the catering, decorating the clubhouse and cake in the colours of our specially struck badges for this year. The day included plenty of laughs, good company, camaraderie and many tall stories. We were fortunate to have as our guests of honour Alistair Wilson and Wal Fernance who have done so much in past years to give us such a wonderful tournament.

We missed Harry & Norma Taylor who could not be with us this year. Feedback from players indicated the tournament was very successful and lived up to the expectations of a friendly and fun end of year tournament.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the venue managers, some of whom managed for the first time, all helping the tournament run so smoothly. We would like to thank the referees from the host clubs who gave of their time so willingly and to the venue referees who in many cases refereed every day that a tournament was being held, Kath Coull, Heather Smallbone, Ron Johnstone & Fay Stove. All clubs also had the assistance of the backbone of any club, the helpers and a thank you goes out to them. I would also like to thank from Maitland Jackie McDonald for refereeing and Geof McDonald for managing for a couple of days our Open GC singles tournament. Also a big thank you to the players who supported the carnival this year, many of whom have supported this carnival over many years. Welcome also to our "first timers", we hope you enjoyed the fun and will participate again. Any tournament is only as good as its entrants, supported by managers, referees and helpers, so again thank you to all.

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

Looking forward to seeing you all again in Oct/Nov 2014 when the Southern clubs will again host this very successful tournament.

**Katherine Love Tournament Manager
Ros Johnstone Tournament Organiser.**

Can you guess where this Croquet lawn is?



*Coaching on the night
Photographer: Bellinda Rowland © 2013*

Well, it is not a new club but it was a demonstration in Martin Place by members of Mosman Club. It was part of Vogue Fashion Night Out on Thursday 5 September, 2013.

Mary Gibson explains:

“Mosman Croquet Club was invited by Black (an Event Company) and Paspaley Pearls to demonstrate/teach passers-by croquet last night during Vogue Fashion Night Out outside their magnificent store at 2 Martin Place. They erected this small court and we had a fantastic time. Paspaley staff all had a "go" as well as members of the public. We gave interested people the names of clubs close to their place of residence and encouraged them to Google Croquet NSW and to go on to YouTube to view the 2013 Golf Croquet Championship in Cairo. We hope this may encourage Paspaley Pearls (who support mallet sports - last year it was Polo - they had horses in Martin Place) to look to Croquet for future sponsorship!!”

Paspaley placed a necklace with a magnificent Paspaley Pearl worth \$8500 around Mary Gibson's neck for the occasion. Alas she had to hand it back at the end of the night. “The Paspaley people were very appreciative and kept inviting us into their magnificent store for French Champagne and goodies "of the very best". It was a great night. The Event company thanked us profusely and said the croquet exhibition was not only a wonderful idea but that we had made it fun and interesting.”

Celebration of an 80th Birthday

Margot Palmer of Marrickville Club celebrated her 80th birthday in August. The birthday cake shown below was baked by her family and presented to Margot at a family function. Many happy returns, Margot!



*Kerrie Pearson
Marrickville Croquet Club*

Celebration of a 90th Birthday

Wally Fernance, a Life Member of the Sutherland Croquet Club and an Honorary Member of Orange Croquet Club, recently celebrated his 90th Birthday amongst Sutherland Club Members. He came to the Sutherland Croquet Club in 1992, having transferred there from Port Hacking Croquet Club. He is well known in the croquet community for his coaching since 1993 and later as trainer of coaches. In 1994 Wally became a qualified Referee and thereafter an Examining Referee, officiating at many croquet venues. This was mostly done together with his wife Mary, who unfortunately died in April 2011. Now living with his son, still driving his car, Wally remains a very active member of our club, participating in both Association and Golf Croquet events. He still plays a mean game and disperses valuable advice to new members and makes sure the lawns are set up in the correct manner.



For the occasion the Club presented Wally with a specially made Birthday Cake, depicting a croquet lawn, complete with flags, hoops, mallets and balls, and **his now familiar walker**. Obviously the unconventional colour combination and number of balls on that green were put out to test Wally's concentration after days of festivities. However, on this day he was in his element addressing the Club

Members and it went unnoticed.

Wally is appreciated for the years of service to Croquet and he is an inspiration to players many years of lesser age. In Wally's own competition many shots are still to be played before a Peg-out. Thank you and 'Good Luck' to you Wally!!

Dorle Fisher