

## Welcome to Cessnock Croquet Club

It was almost by accident that croquet came to Cessnock and this is the way it happened. The Cessnock Council always celebrates Senior Citizens Week by organising interesting activities for our oldies and so in order to engage local areas in the festivities, it was thought to include the townships of Wollombi and Branxton in a common themed pursuit.

As both of these clubs had a croquet club, it was decided to take a bus load of Cessnock and Wollombi people to Branxton for a "Come and Try" croquet morning. It is history now that because of the wonderful hospitality shown to the group by the members of the Branxton club, all those who attended wanted their own club here in Cessnock.

It took more than two years to source out a suitable area on which the club could be situated. Due mainly to the persistence of club member Peter Chappell, an acceptable site was eventually found and the decision to form the club was arranged.

With the assistance of Croquet NSW and the neighbouring Maitland Club, the fledgling Cessnock Club was soon up and running, boasting just on thirty members who are now looking forward to the official Spring opening of the City of Cessnock's first croquet club.



President of CNSW welcomes Cessnock CC and presents the president with relevant documents

The Cessnock Croquet Club was formed on 30 June 2014 at a well attended meeting in the local library.

The inaugural executive included:

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| President:           | Phil Baird       |
| Vice-President:      | Derek Stevens    |
| Secretary:           | Voirrey Cochrane |
| Assistant Secretary: | Barbara Sherlock |
| Treasurer:           | Toni Freestone   |



How great to start off with a ready to use club-house. A few minor repairs are underway and plans for some paint to be splashed around are well in hand.

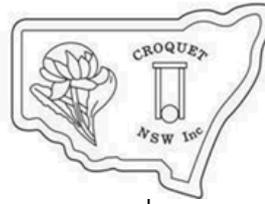


Decisions decisions!  
A familiar picture which will become even more familiar to these new players.

Phil Baird  
President Cessnock CC

Photos & captions courtesy Peter Smith (Maitland)





## *From the President:*

As this will be my last report as President of CNSW it would be remiss of me to not thank all the volunteers that have contributed to the staging and running of events in NSW. For your assistance over the past 3 ½ years. I thank you. CNSW only continues to exist because of the many volunteers that make up the CNSW Committees, Club Delegates, the CNSW Executive, the State Directors, Referees, and of course all of our clubs and their members.

I would like to wish the NSW Golf Croquet Interstate Shield team every success both individually and as a team in Adelaide during September. The team captained by Pam Gentle (Maitland) consists of Peter and Rosemary Landrebe (Camberay), Alison Sharpe (Killara), John Levick (Newcastle), Peter Freer (Canberra), Barb Piggott (Urunga) and Chris Lavina (Camberay). The team's preparation has been shaped by coach and master tactician Peter Landrebe. Pete has put considerable time and effort into mentoring two training squads, one based in Sydney and the other in the Hunter Valley, prior to the State Team being chosen. Thank you Peter and also all the players involved in the squads.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome to CNSW our newest club, Cessnock Croquet Club. This Club was formed after two public meetings called to gauge interest. Since then up to thirty players have been regularly attending weekly croquet sessions. The Club plays in the grounds of Calvary Nursing Complex on Allandale Road Cessnock – five minutes from the nearest vineyard of the wonderful Hunter Vineyards. They have moved into an abandoned lawn bowls complex (25 years abandoned) with one lawn and a clubhouse. Much work will be needed to resurrect the lawn and buildings but if enthusiasm is a measure of success Cessnock Club has a bright future. Well done all associated with the emergence of our newest club.

I had the pleasure of both playing and helping at the Division 1 GC carnival held at Forster. This was a great example of how well Country Croquet Clubs run competitions. There were a record number of entries for this event, the competition was fierce and there were spectators – not just players but spectators!! Well done Forster. I have also visited Branxton and Gloucester Clubs this month to witness their carnivals. Both Carnivals were well managed and enjoyed by all players.

I must confess my disappointment with facilities at Tempe and completely understand the misgivings of others about Tempe. Small changes are happening or about to happen. The crowd control barriers are now in place – we can now cater for a Royal Visit or G10 Summit. Plans are in place to replace all cisterns and get quotes for a kitchen sink and

## *From the Editor:*

This Newsletter has been quite a struggle to fill, with the need to reduce it saved at the last minute. Some articles came in close to the cut off date, which helped to fill out the pages. The three months have had a lot of competitions completed and many of these had interesting reports. Noticeable were the Pennants reports and a report of a different nature, that of the Premier League held at Cammeray Club.

Thank you for the contributions received from Blue Mountains, Branxton, Eastwood, Gloucester, Holroyd, Macquarie City, Newcastle, Nowra, Port Macquarie, Strathfield, Walla Walla. Gateball includes the Hunter and Jamberoo challenge. A successful coaching session brought three clubs together for a successful afternoon. There is a tale of a visit to the New York City Croquet Club. Have a look at its website, the club is set in very beautiful surroundings.

It is good to welcome a new club to Croquet NSW on the front page. We do hope that Cessnock Club continues to grow and that its members enjoy their croquet. We hope to see some of them enjoying tournaments at other clubs in the near future.

If your club has not contributed to the Newsletter this year, please try to send in an article for the next issue.

The last word in this Newsletter goes to “The Shed” - it is gone!

*Wendy Fothergill*

**Closing date for December Issue: Friday 21 November**  
**E-mail: [newsletter@croquet-nsw.org](mailto:newsletter@croquet-nsw.org)**

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hot water service. The SHED is going – this will be at the whim of the council contractors but it is definitely going. Thanks to Nick and John for clearing the shed. It is now being held up by a locker and fresh air.

We await the results from the Member Survey. They should make interesting reading. My one word of caution concerns any plan to abandon Tempe as CNSW Headquarters. Once CNSW leaves Tempe there will be no turning back. The lawns will be lost forever as Marrickville Council finds an alternative use for the area. My belief is that CNSW needs a headquarters and at the present time there is no sensible, viable or practical replacement

*John Compton*

## *JA Hunter dozen topped by Jamberoo's sweet seventeen!*

The reds and the whites compete with each other in a game of gateball and no doubt this Hunter Dozen enjoyed their session. As a result a challenge was issued to NSW gateballers to see if another club could top this dozen.



*The Hunter Dozen*

After a delay of a few weeks, Jamberoo forwarded photographic evidence showing 14 Jamberoo members and three visitors from other clubs. A magnificent total of 17. One of the strengths of gateball for space limited clubs is that up to 20 players can play on one croquet lawn.



*The Jamberoo Crew*

It would be great if Sydney could take up this challenge. Our state capital and largest city is certainly lagging behind. At the moment Epping and Eastwood hold fortnightly joint sessions of gateball on the second and fourth Sundays of the month but there would not be many occasions when the numbers of Sydneysiders on the court reached double figures.

Dozens and dozens of gateballers from around the world will be at the World Gateball Union Championships in Japan in late September. For the first time European teams are participating. NSW Reps, Canberra, have been taking part in plenty of comps in NSW and other States and have plenty of successes under their belt before heading to Japan with them.

As always, any club wanting to hold a gateball demonstration/workshop is invited to contact John Park on [nsagateball@gmail.com.au](mailto:nsagateball@gmail.com.au) but, if you live close to one of those strong gateball clubs, why not get in touch and learn the ret of their success.

*John Park*

## *Great Winter Tournament*

Macquarie City held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Tournament after more persuasion on 2-4 July at Pelican. Our local member Jill Hall kindly opened the Tournament for the third year and we had three lovely fine days, just a little crisp in the morning. 36 players came from eleven clubs as far as Wollongong, Young, Orange, Killara, Chatswood, Forster, South West Rocks, Urunga as well as our three local clubs. There were 45 Double and 90 Single games over the three days, all level play.

### **Doubles Winners:**

**Block A:** Peter Montague & Gary Barenthien  
**Block B:** Edna Kelly & Ron Bell.  
**Block C:** Margaret Pedemont & Maureen Trevenar

### **Singles Winners:**

**Block A:** Graham Innocent  
 Runner-up: Doug Leabeater  
**Block B:** Gary Barenthien  
 Runner-up: John Edman  
**Block C:** Robert Knox  
 Runner-up: John Ball  
**Block D:** Patricia Nosworthy  
 Runner-up: Robert Greig  
**Block E:** Margaret Pedemont  
 Runner-up: Chris Ogilvie  
**Block F:** Diana Knox  
 Runner-up: Maureen Trevenar

On Thursday 3 July we had very enjoyable Dinner at the 16ft Sailing Club.

Many thanks to our eight non-playing referees being briefly relieved by playing referees, all organised by Barb Piggott, our Tournament Referee. Thanks Barb, and to all the helpers from our club who worked tirelessly. Thanks to Neville Coulton for the Block photos and last but not least the players who supplied wonderful friendly games to make this Tournament a success.



*Jill Hall, Jan Ingham  
& Carol Goodman*

HAPPY CROQUETING

*Jan Ingham  
Tournament Manager*

## Gateball Tournament at Newcastle N.P

Our recent gateball event saw ten teams competing with about sixty competitors. On the Saturday each team played six games. A final was then played between the top two teams. Canberra's team (pictured with our members Judy Squelch and Kerrie Sutherland) was the eventual winner in a tight game [10-9] from Tamborine Mountain. About forty players then enjoyed a meal together at a local club with trivia on "gates".



Sunday was high/low doubles with different partners each game. Five games were played each. The full results are on the "croquet scores" website. Photos and commentary (thanks to Glen from Canberra) appear on the "Gateball Australia" website.

In first place was Herman Bekker from Tamborine Mountain and in second place was Gareth Hughes, also from Tamborine Mountain. Third place went to our own John Edman. This year the Encouragement award went to Barbara Murray from Jamberoo.



Congratulations to our members, Kerrie Sutherland and Judy Squelch as well as Penny Park from the Blue Mountains (pictured here) for becoming grade 2 gateball referees - a difficult "Japanese" exam.

We have had positive feedback from several clubs. It was great to see everyone pitch in and help even though they weren't asked. This was much appreciated and shows what great camaraderie we have developed with our club members.

**Kerrie Sutherland**  
**Asst. Games Captain - Gateball**

*(Photos courtesy of the Club camera)*

## Newcastle N.P Honours John Levick

John is no stranger to players reading CNSW newsletters, so he was delighted when advised that he has been elevated to **LIFE MEMBERSHIP** of the Club by a resounding and unanimous decision at Newcastle National Park Croquet Club's Annual General Meeting on 12 July. Unfortunately John was unable to attend the meeting because of other commitments. When notifying John by telephone, President Judy Nicod said: "it is not only an honour for you ... it is an honour for us to have you".

We couldn't think of it happening to a nicer guy. Besides being a champion player, our Club champion on many occasions, and the first croquet inductee into the Hunter Sporting Hall of Fame, he is a champion bloke ... always ready to lend a hand and always available to pass on tips to other players.

John started playing croquet in 1986 and became President of our Club on 1 July, 1991. However after suffering a serious health set-back he took an enforced holiday for about six months eventually coming back as strongly as ever. He now holds the position of Grounds Supervisor at the Club and the greenkeeper reports to him.

The first competition John won was the Beryl Chambers in 1988, and you can see his name on our Club Championship shield at least twenty times. Over the years he has won many competitions in Sydney and throughout the State and country in both Association and Golf Croquet. In 2009 he captained NSW to its first ever victory in the GC Shield and he has been a member of the team in two ensuing victories. He was also a member of the NSW Eire Cup team in Association Croquet and they went on to win in 2010. He has represented Australia in Golf Croquet in South Africa, Egypt (where he won the Bronze Medal) and at Hurlingham in England - where you have to be "invited" to play.

John's other interests are water sports (including fishing), chess, cards and reading. Apart from his lovely wife, Glenda, John says that his first love is croquet. He is genuinely keen on all forms of the game and most of his "fellow nuts" who play it. In fact, John considers that croquet should be made a compulsory sport at High School so that youngsters can get a real introduction to the game. I'm sure you've all heard the comment: "I wish I had discovered this game earlier!!"

John joins other Newcastle N.P. Life Membership stalwarts, Elaine McDiarmid (Games Captain guru) and Barry Butler (line marking maestro) - so he is in excellent company.

Our sincere congratulations John - it's a well deserved reward.

**Pam Ingham**

## Sydney Premier Croquet League

The inaugural Sydney Premier Croquet League has been played at Cammeray Croquet Club over the last 3 months, and has been a tremendous success.



The top 6 players (by world ranking) who were members of Sydney clubs chose two “wild cards” to complete a field of eight, playing a round robin on Tuesday nights between mid-May and mid-July. There has been a good showing of regular spectators warming themselves inside the clubhouse each week (and displaying their prowess to anyone within earshot) while the real competitors made a display of themselves out on the lawns. (*Wyndham's Bin 555* really does improve one's understanding of the game.)

And if you are wondering about the ‘Michelin man’ in the picture, wonder no more. You are looking at the trophy! A wonderful piece of history, sourced by Peter Landrebe – one of the few people who could lift it – something he proceeded to do, both literally and metaphorically.

After ten weeks of fascinating croquet, the round-robin part of the competition was completed, and Alix Verge (RSGC) led the charge into the finals, with 6 wins out of 7.

The finalists were



**Peter Landrebe (Cammeray), Alison Sharpe (Killara), Alix Verge (RSGC) and Alan Walsh (Cammeray)**

The evening of Tuesday 29 July was clear and dry. The new moon visible in the west. The air growing chilly as time wore on, and the lawn losing a little pace. A crowd of some thirty souls anticipating some great croquet. And they were not disappointed.

### Semi-final 1: **Alix Verge -v- Alan Walsh**

Alan hit his own lengthy ‘tice on turn 4, separated Alix, but couldn't make anything from it. Alix hit her partner ball from 21 yards, and proceeded to run nine, but set an imperfect diagonal leave. Alan declined the lift, choosing to play Black from the peg to Blue on the west boundary, and proceeded to run a quick eight hoops. Couldn't run 3-back, but set a good leave.

Alix missed the lift shot from B-baulk, down the line to Corner IV. Alan started on a quad peel, putting Black through 3-back as he ran hoop 4 with Blue, but could not peel further, contenting himself with taking Blue to the peg, and setting a perfect diagonal leave. Alix missed with the lift shot from A-baulk, and Alan ultimately managed the last five points with Black. Alan 26, Alix 9.

### Semi-final 2: **Peter Landrebe -v- Alison Sharp**

Peter got started but ‘blobbed’ with his Yellow in hoop 2, leaving Alison to run a quick eight hoops with Blue, before she too got stuck, in 3-back. Peter said ‘thank you’ nicely, and proceeded to run an uneventful nine with Red, before setting a good diagonal leave. Alison shot at him from A-baulk, but missed. Peter then took Yellow to the peg, peeling Red through 4-back, but having to abandon the penult peel, before setting an ‘old standard’ leave.

Alison shot Black at Red and Yellow from A-baulk, but missed. Peter ran penult and rover with Red, but couldn't peg-out, and set up mid-way on the Eastern boundary. Alison played Black again from close to A-baulk ... and hit from 25 yards! But a great come-back was snuffed out when Black stuck in hoop 4 (an unpopular hoop) leaving Peter to administer the *coup de grace*. Peter 26, Alison 11.

### The Final: **Peter Landrebe -v- Alan Walsh**

Alan opens with Black, sending it from A-baulk to the mid-point on the eastern boundary. Peter plays his red from B-baulk to Corner II. Alan roquets Black from 25 yards, takes off to Yellow, and rolls it into midfield, before returning to his partner ball on the eastern boundary. Peter plays Yellow from B-baulk, hits Red, sets a pioneer at hoop 2, and rolls for hoop 1 - but just a tad too far.

Alan hits, and engineers a roll to hoop 1 – but just a tad short. Peter hits a 15-yard roquet, and runs a faultless nine with Yellow. Alan lifts the peg ball this time, and shoots down the line from B-baulk, missing, and ending in Corner IV. Peter plays Red, and manages to rush Yellow into Corner IV, to gain a cannon, with which he lays the foundation of another very good break. Fails to peel Yellow through 4-back while running hoop 3 with Red, but runs 4 and 5 before returning to the task, and peeling it from all of 4 yards out.

Finishes the break of twelve, the triple peel, the peg-out ... and the trophy! Peter 26, Alan 0.

This was a terrific event, and congratulations are due to the eight competitors (the four semi-finalists plus Rosemary Landrebe, Mike Hughes, Ken Edwards and Ted Salter) as well as the referees – Stephen Howes and Neil Hardie, and all who helped make it possible – David Stanton, Steve Miles, and Jan Thomas to name but a few.

*Michael Strickland*

## Coaching Session at Sydney Club



Twenty players from Sydney, Coogee and RSGC Croquet Clubs converged on the Sydney Club lawns in mid June for a Golf Croquet rules update and Improve Your Game workshop held by Barb Piggott. The morning was most unpromising - cold and wet – so it was decided to take advantage of the break in the rain early on and start the afternoon with on-lawn exercises aimed at improving the micro-skills we all need to play a successful game of GC.

Skills worked on included how to do a stun shot with the striking ball stopping dead, angled hoop running, accurate aim and the energy required to position a ball at various distances, purposefully placing a ball in the jaws of the hoop, determining the “zone of success” from which a hoop is able to be run and, of course, various techniques to achieve a jump shot.

Once we started and contrary to forecasts, the sun shone and the day warmed up considerably allowing for much practice of the skills and, after a brief run through of the changes made in the recent rules revision, many of the players stayed on for some doubles games.

It was a highly productive session which I would recommend to any player with a handicap of 4 or greater. If your club is interested in hosting a session send Barb an email and she will schedule your club into a tour of your region. I would like to thank Barb for her time and expertise and the Sydney Club for agreeing to host our session.



*From Gloucester (next column)*

*Alix Verge  
Convenor*

### *Did It Make It?*

*Jackie Grady  
(Macquarie City)  
attempts a Jump Shot  
watched by her partner  
Robert Knox (Toronto)  
& opposition Bob  
Baldwin (Macquarie)  
with Ref Bill Munns*



## Gala Day for Gloucester Croquet

A magnificent morning greeted the visitors from eight croquet clubs of the local region and further afield when they arrived to celebrate the annual Gala Day held by the Gloucester Croquet Club last Saturday (9 August). The scene was a riot of colour with the different clubs' uniforms, the various hues of the umbrellas and a day of superb spring weather. The participating clubs were from Mt Sugarloaf, Taree, Nelson Bay, Toronto, Forster, Macquarie City, Young and Gloucester, and the atmosphere was one of friendship and camaraderie with many meeting up with old acquaintances from croquet competitions at other venues. As usual Gloucester lived up to its reputation of being an excellent host, with Judy Hopkins leading the team who produced superb morning and afternoon teas, and a delicious soup and damper lunch. Thanks to the many helping members who provided food, and served and cleaned up all day. Also our thanks go to Al Minis who had the courts marked, and was up at dawn to set out the hoops and see that everything was ready to go.

Brenda Pennicuik stepped into the President's role in Carol's absence and welcomed guests, while Captain Bev Murray and her team lead by Margaret Thompson from Nelson Bay who acted as Tournament Manager for the day ran a very well organised competition and Zan Menzel computed all the results.

These were as follows -

**Block A – Graham Innocent (Young) and Don Rankin (Mt Sugarloaf)**

**Block B – Edna Kelly (Young) and Neville Milne (Forster)**

**Block C – Lorraine Craig (Macquarie City) and Lesley Joass (Macquarie City)**

**Block D – Brenda Pennicuik (Gloucester) and Elynne Graham (Gloucester)**

Our thanks go also to the number of referees who gave of their time to come to Gloucester for the day to oversee the games and help everything run smoothly – Margaret Thompson, Meg Trevanion, Tom Adams and Jan Sage, and also the players who helped with the refereeing between games - Bill Munns, Sandy Coutts, Graham Innocent, Marie Munns, Bob Hokin, Neville Milne, Shirley Page. John & Robyn Compton dropped by and were quickly seconded to assist as well.

A raffle was held, the winners being Robert Knox (Toronto) who won three bottles of red wine, Fay Harle (Taree), the recipient of a box of perfume, and Sandra Peters (Taree) won a coffee mug.

Another successful day for Gloucester with thanks to all who entered, refereed, cooked, served, cleaned-up and packed up at the end of the day. This was our fifth year hosting this event and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

*Zan Menzel*

## Branxton Reports

Excerpt from Report to AGM by President Jacky McDonald:  
"This has been a busy year for Branxton Croquet Club. We now have over thirty members with up to twenty players present on a Tuesday and increasing numbers on a Saturday. The first Thursday of each month has been designated as a coaching day and seems to be most successful. With a new club starting in Cessnock the offer of coaching has been extended to them and accepted.

In August we conducted our Doubles Tournament and in May held a Gala Day. Both were well attended and very successful due mainly to the assistance provided by our own members. We have decided to hold another Gala Day in October.

The club entered a team in the CNSW Division Three Pennants. While not successful they played well and learnt lots. Club Handicap Singles and Doubles competitions were held and enjoyed by all who entered. The winners were Peter Ernst and Clare Clark in the doubles and Peter again in the singles. Congratulations to you both.

Branxton members have competed at carnivals and Gala Days at Muswellbrook, Maitland, Toronto and Dungog. Our own social days were held for the Melbourne Cup and Christmas and we also took a trip to Closebourne House.

Work has continued with the clubhouse and surrounds. In January lawn one was refurbished and seems to be playing very well. It is very pleasing to have visitors to our club comment favourably on the state of our lawns. We were successful in applying for a grant to extend the clubhouse by an extra bay to provide extra room to store the mowers and gardening equipment. Hopefully that should commence in the near future."

The Club has just completed its August Doubles Tournament with thirty-six players from seven clubs participating. Hard fought games were played in cold but mostly sunny days and enjoyed by all participating teams; the expertly run two days tournament was concluded with a short presentation by our President.

The lawns were in top condition and the gardens and surrounds looked beautiful courtesy of Geof McDonald, the committee and club members.

The results of Doubles Tournament are as follow:

### Group A

**Winners:** John Pace and Wal Mills (Maitland club)  
Runners-up : Graham Innocent and Edna Kelly from Young club

### Group B

**Winners:** Diana and Robert Knox (Toronto club)  
Runners-up: John Edman and Mary Takiwa from Newcastle National Park

### Group C

**Winners:** Kevin Davies and Keith Harvey (Toronto)  
Runners-up: Marion Davies and Pam Weimers (Toronto)



*Group A Winners: Wal Mills & John Pace (Maitland)*



*Group B Winners: Robert & Diana Knox (Toronto)*



*Group C Winners:  
Kevin Davies & Keith  
Harvey (Toronto)*

*Fran Klein  
Publicity Officer*

## Glad News and Sad News from the Blue Mountains

The glad news is that, at last, we are making some headway with our quest for a new site for the club. After much consultation with members (a bit like the Tempe process!) and dogged hassling of the BM City council, local members and anyone else who might be of some help, we have been given the green light to begin the next step to establish a club at Medlow Bath, across the railway lines from the Hydro Majestic. With a grant from the Council, we can now develop design plans for future lawns and a clubhouse (in several stages) and have submitted an application for a larger grant to turn this into a reality. Watch this space!

The sad news is that our club was saddened to learn of the passing of two former valued members in recent months. They were Edith Turnbull and Wilma Holgate.



Edith will be remembered by members of other clubs as a very competitive opponent, preferring not to disclose that she was in her 90s. She will be remembered in our club as an encouraging and supportive member and friend.

Wilma was a popular, long-time member, never missing an opportunity to play and always turning up neat as a pin. She and her husband were active in the community, supporting Katoomba Hospital over the years, opening their Leura garden to the public. When reminiscing about Wilma, one of our members recalled the time when Wilma, who was still playing tournaments in her later years, was sitting at a station waiting for a train back to Blackheath when a young woman sat down next to her and said, "Oh, do you play polo?"

*Penny Park  
Publicity Office*



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

## Eastwood Croquet Club

### Vale Margaret Davey:

The Club has honoured our Life Member, Margaret Davey who passed away in April this year. Margaret was our President for nine years from 1999 to 2009 and was a stalwart member of our Club. We held a Memorial Day in her honour on Saturday, 26 July. A Gordonia tree was planted in our gardens to mark her valuable contribution to the Club and a Games Gala was organized. The Guests of Honour were her nephew Scott, his wife Jenny and their son Cullen. Visitors from other Clubs who had known Margaret and enjoyed her company (and her very infectious laugh) helped us to celebrate her life.



### New Constitution

Our new Constitution has been accepted by the Department of Fair Trading and has been adopted by the Club. The old Constitution had been in place since 1950. The new Constitution has taken many months of work by the Constitution Sub-Committee and this was chaired very capably by our President Pat Gilchrist.

### Golf Croquet Club Championships

The Club has conducted Division 2 GC Singles Championships (managed by Yvonne Ticehurst) and Division 3 GC Singles Championships (managed by Nick Protos).

Winner of Division 2 was Pat Gilchrist and winner of Division 3 was Yvonne Ticehurst.

The GC Doubles Championship was played in June and the winning pair was Margaret Dewberry and Robyn Batley.

### Our Groundsman

Eastwood Croquet Club remembers our Groundsman, Victor Orishev, who was tragically killed in the Malaysian Airlines MH17 plane shot down over the Ukraine. Victor was always a willing and capable worker and will be sorely missed. We have placed a small memorial at our front gate and many local residents have read our sign and placed flowers there for Victor.

### Coaching Classes

Congratulations to Pat Gilchrist, Nick Protos, Yvonne Ticehurst and Margaret Foster who have been certified as Level 1 Coaches for Golf Croquet and have been issued with certificates and badges.

*Shirley McLachlan*

## Strathfield Croquet Club

2014 has been a year when Strathfield Croquet Club has honoured its past, performed well in the present, and makes plans to ensure the Club has a bright future.

The Club's 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tournament Week and lunch was a brilliant success, and indeed honoured our past. Dignitaries and special guests, past and current members (spouses included), inter-club tournament players, all came together on Saturday, 7 June (a beautiful, sunny day) to enjoy our anniversary lunch, which followed the final game. Strathfield Mayor, Daniel Bott, presented the prizes to winners. Marlene Dornan (a Director, of the Homebush Branch of the Bendigo Bank, the Tournament sponsors) joined other representatives of the Bank that day. Mrs Peggy Goldsmith represented the Firth family, and cut the cake. In 1947, the Firth family donated the Clubhouse in honour of Clara Ruth Firth (Peggy's grandmother), as she was known, who was a very active and dedicated member of the Strathfield Croquet Club.

It will have been reported elsewhere in this newsletter, about our other successes in various competitions this year. Have a browse through those Competition Reports. SCC members have been heartened by their success this year.

To help ensure the club has a bright future, one of the markets SCC needed to target more specifically was the youth market. We are fortunate to have a good relationship with the local Australian Catholic University. Since 2010, we have taken 80-100 ACU students, enrolled in the Bachelor of Exercise and Health Science (Target Sports Module), and given them a two hour introductory croquet (RC) session at the club. Now we were ready for the next step. We partnered with that School to conduct a Joint Project, aimed at giving some of their students experience in providing an introductory croquet experience to a Community Group/Organisation (including children). It was an opportunity to encourage the university students to become more involved in the Malletsports (which was new to them), and enable them to pass on the knowledge and skills they gained, to others.

To this end, Ann Shaddick and Ruth Bridger recently conducted a Pilot Project over a three month period. This project enabled us to implement the concept of utilising young adults (ACU Students) to act as role models and perform as 'young coaches' to a group of children. The ACU students who participated in the project did so as part of their Professional Experience Module. These university students were supervised throughout the project by an accredited 'Beginner Coach' (Ruth Bridger), who with the help of others, provided revision in basic croquet skills, and then enabled the students to apply their skills in a game of Golf Croquet.

Later in the project, it was planned that these ACU students would then teach a group of children what they

themselves had learnt.



In attendance, we had children and a parent from the Strathfield Yackatoon Girl Guide Group (10-14 year olds). All enjoyed the experience.

The project organisers found all the necessary steps taken to complete the project (that is, the process itself) became the most valuable learning tool. The potential benefits, challenges, parameters when partnering with a University, and the implications for our Club were now better known. With the knowledge gained, we have drawn up a list of proposed actions as we plan future partnerships with this University, to undertake similar Joint projects.

*Ruth Bridger*



## Macquarie City Snippet

In July of this year our member Jean Thompson visited New York where she had arranged to fulfil a long time wish of hers to play croquet at Central Park New York. With due correspondence attended to through the President of the Central Park Croquet Club Inc. Jean set off to New York with all the appropriate paper work in hand.



Jean was made feel very welcome by members including James and Dennis with whom she played three very enjoyable games.

They have one green divided to accommodate Association as well as Six Wicket croquet. The club plays three days a week starting at 12 noon each playing day. Due to climatic conditions in New York the club is only operative three to four months of the year from the end of spring until the beginning of fall.

The club is set in a very scenic position in Central Park away from the hustle and the bustle of New York.

Jean so enjoyed her visit to the club that she is now thinking of playing in other cities in the world. This would seem to be a very pleasant way to forge new friendships overseas.

*Anne Cocking*

## Strathfield Croquet Club 110th Anniversary Tournament

The 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tournament, sponsored by the Homebush Community Branch Bank Bendigo, began in brilliant sunshine on Thursday 29 May. This was the date in 1947 when Strathfield Council handed over the lawns to the Croquet Club to commence play on their own lawns.

The Handicap Tournament was played in three Round Robin blocks of six players, with one Strathfield member in each block, three games a day beginning at 8.30a.m. The Homebush Community Bank sponsorship was \$1000. First prize in each block \$150, & runner up \$100.

Strathfield Club. is very grateful to the Bank for its very generous sponsorship. A special logo was designed, embroidered on shirts & presented to each player. The handicap range was 8—20, this provided an opportunity for any member of each block to win the prize money, also showed who had the understanding of using bisques.

Most games were well contested, but the final block was not decided until the last game of the Tournament, between Steve Miles & Val Lloyd. Steve eventually won 26/16.

### **Winners:**

**Block A:** Steve Miles (Cammeray)

Runner-up: Val Lloyd (Coogee)

**Block B:** Gerard Berry (Chatswood)

Rubber-up: Matt Carden (Cammeray)

**Block C:** Margaret O'Brien (Cammeray)

Runner-up: Ron Buist (Killara)

Margaret O'Brien won all of her five games, and showed a good understanding of setting out the lawn, and use of bisques. Margaret began on a handicap of 20

At the conclusion of the Tournament, during the presentation of certificates, our Treasurer Susan Howland presented a "Certificate of Appreciation" to the Bank to hang on their "Skite Wall."

A superb lunch—prawns, leg ham & salads—was followed by an Anniversary cake, cut by Peggy Goldsmith. Peggy is the granddaughter of Mrs. Firth, long serving member and President for many years, whose three daughters donated the money to erect the clubhouse.

Past members, along with The Mayor of Strathfield, Councillor Daniel Bott, spent a most enjoyable day catching up with old friends and current events at the club. Steve Miles was thrilled with his raffle prize. He now has a lovely new mallet cover made & donated by Susan Howland.

I would like to sincerely thank all members, who assisted with all aspects of the Tournament, and especially those who prepared the wonderful lunch. Many long, but most enjoyable hours were spent at the club during the Tournament, but the friendships made were pleasurable, and we certainly hope these will continue.

*Heather Smallbone  
President Strathfield Croquet Club*



*The Anniversary Cake*



*President Heather Smallbone, Reham Ulutas & Catherine Ross (Marketing Div. Homebush Community Bank, Bendigo) & Treasurer Susan Howland with the cheque for \$1000*



*Steve Miles displays his raffle Prize Mallet Cover made by Susan Howland*

### **HOMEWORK**



Stephanie Smith loves her croquet, but owing to work commitments can only play Saturday afternoons. Andrew Strath had played croquet in Sydney before work took him to Perth. Having returned to Sydney, he is now playing croquet again at the Strathfield club.

Playing together one Saturday afternoon, Steph was so keen to see if she had roqueted the ball, she kept lifting her head. After a "SCOLDING" from Andrew, she was told to do some homework. 500 lines: "I MUST NOT LIFT MY HEAD." The following Saturday, beaming smile, Steph arrived carrying a beautiful chocolate cake, announcing, "I've done my homework."

The photo of Stehanie, Andrew and "Homework" says it all, & that Saturday afternoon, we all had a very nice Afternoon Tea.

*Heather Smallbone*

## Port Macquarie Association Croquet Carnival

Our 59<sup>th</sup> annual association carnival was held at our Buller Street courts from 21-25 July. We had thirty players representing sixteen clubs from NSW, the greatest distance travelled was by a couple from Albury. The play consisted of five blocks of round robin competition. Competition was keen but played in a friendly atmosphere. Some games were won after the bell or on a count back, which was exciting for both players and spectators.

Ultimately the winners of the blocks were:

**Block A: Winner: Tony Hall (Canberra)**

Runner-up: Jim Hicks (Port Macquarie)

**Block B: Winner: Alan Gray (Newcastle Nat/Park)**

Runner-up: John Deeves (Nowra)

**Block C: Winner: Barbara Piggott (Urunga)**

Runner-up: Fay Simpson (Killara)

**Block D: Winner: Elmore Lieschke (Albury)**

Runner-up: Paul Mitchell (Port Macquarie)

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

Runner-up: Bernice Gibson (Manly)

John Hincks was the only player to win all five games during his first carnival playing association croquet. Some of you will know John from golf tournaments, but this year he took up association and has become a rapid improver – so watch out. On the final day of play there was one game that everyone had their eye on - the game between Tony Hall and Jim Hicks. Tony was doing the maths before the game started, if Jim won the match (which he did) they would both have four wins and he was calculating how many hoops he would need. Tony won on a count back by two points – doesn't get more nail biting than that. The second game so impressed the referee that he put pen to paper. Under the title "Interesting Play" Larry Bryant wrote: "With about 2 minutes left on the clock, John Deeves played a 2 ball break for three hoops to get one ahead and time called. Alan Gray hit a 7 yard roquet and could have played a long takeoff to level the score, but played a roll shot of about 25 yards to perfect position – Alan made an 8 break and finished with a straight peel of rover to peg out!"

As Tournament Referee and Secretary Bridget Earle did an exceptional job in both capacities. Each game had a referee in charge, thanks to the players and two club members. Tony Earle and Robin Shenton refereed the first session, in very cool temperatures, every day. Tony was also at the club every morning at 6.30am with Graeme Meers and our greenkeeper Les "Shorty" Short to set the lawns up and have hot drinks ready for the players when they arrived.

Visitors were well catered for by members who obviously like to cook. We had copious amounts of homemade soups, slices, cakes and scones. On Friday Anna Walter brought in 5 delicious cakes on top of the ones she had baked earlier in the week. These goodies don't get to table by themselves, so I would like to say a big thankyou

to all who helped out in the kitchen. Staying on the topic of food; we had three social functions, the last being our Presentation and Dinner in our clubhouse. All functions were well attended and judging by the laughter and chatter everyone enjoyed themselves.

During the carnival Tony Earle took lots of photos of competitors at work and play, and Bridget assembled some into a collage which she emailed to everyone as a memento of their time at our carnival. We have received a lot of positive feedback from players, so you might like to look ahead to 2015. We will be holding our 60<sup>th</sup> consecutive Association Carnival from 20-24 July. You might like to check your calendar, and pencil it in.



*Sue Moss  
Carnival Manager*



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



**Beryl Chambers Trophy**  
**AC State Handicap**  
**6-9 June**

The AC State Handicap championship for the Beryl Chambers trophy was run over the long weekend, Friday 6 to Monday 9 June.

In typical conditions for the final of this event it started with a miserable wet day on the Friday, improved for Saturday & Sunday but then rain started again on Monday. All the players battled through without complaint.

There were seven finalists from the thirty players that contested the regional events. Thanks go to Heather Smallbone (Sydney inner west), David Stanton (Sydney north east) and Rik Mills (mid west) for organising the regional events. It would be good if more players from more regions participated next year.

**Gareth Denyer** was clearly the best player and won the event with 6 wins from 6 games. The runner-up was Roberta Flint who was the highest handicapped player on 20. Ron Buist, a reasonably new player on the competition scene finished third. As about 50% of the games went to the player with bisques and 50% to the player conceding bisques, and the top two places went to players at the opposite ends of the handicap scale it shows that all players are able to do well in this handicap event.



*John Eddes*  
*Manager*

**Beryl Chambers Handicap Tournament**  
**Inner-West Region**

Eight players from Strathfield, Marrickville, Epping and Killara contested entry for the Beryl Chambers Handicap event from the Inner-West region for qualification for the final.

As some players were only available to play on weekends, to ensure all had some good quality play the block was played as a round robin----28 games in all. Handicaps ranged from 10---20 and it was interesting to see the ability of using bisques by some of the players.

I would like to congratulate Margot Palmer (Marrickville) who at the age of 80, played in her first CNSW Tournament, showing some of the more experienced players how to play croquet.

The winner of the Region was Gareth Denyer (Marrickville), winning all 6 of his games, with runner-up Ron Buist (Killara) with 5 wins.

Roberta Flint (Strathfield) also went on to play in the finals, and showed she has a good knowledge of setting out the lawn before using bisques.



*Heather Smallbone*  
*Manager*

**AC Silver Singles**  
**5-9 May**

Strathfield Croquet Club offered to host the Silver Singles Championship in 2014, as over the last few years this event hasn't been contested.

Nine players from Killara, Cammeray, Coogee, Strathfield, Eastwood & Marrickville, entered but unfortunately one had to withdraw due to illness.

I must say, it was a pleasure to Manage this Tournament. All players were on time, also assisted if help was needed. Gareth Denyer was overjoyed in his first game, making a break of 11 for the first time, John Campey a break of 9, & some other interesting play took place, hence a few handicaps changed during the Tournament. Val Lloyd (Coogee) entered as a Bronze player, but finished on a Handicap of 12, third overall.

Often lifts were forgotten, and I feel there needs to be a greater emphasis on learning the Laws, as well as just playing the game.

Winner: Congratulations to **Gareth Denyer** (Marrickville) winning all of his games.

Runner-up: Steve Miles (Cammeray)

Thank you to Fay Stove and Kath Coull for refereeing, and the Strathfield members who provided morning teas. The Strathfield lawns were in excellent condition, and the Strathfield Club enjoyed hosting this event.

At the conclusion of the Tournament, we were presented with a lovely bouquet of Purple Iris & a Thank You card from all the players, who expressed their sincere thanks to the club.



*Heather Smallbone*  
*Manager*

**AC Gold Singles**  
**20-24 May**

This event attracted a field of six players:

Ron Humpherson (Mosman), Greg Deakin (Killara), Michael Mills (Chatswood), Jim Elston (Milton-Ulladulla), Sue Nichols (Chatswood), and Stewart Johnston (Jamberoo).

Winner of the event was **Jim Elston**, with Sue Nichols as runner-up.

There was no official report supplied for this event.



### Division 1

Seven teams – one down from the original eight registered – took up the challenge of the Division 1 GC Pennants program.

The teams were Maitland Black, Killara, Cammeray, Sydney, Sutherland, Southern and Canberra. Some matches were held earlier than the three-day carnival which was held at both CNSW Headquarters (Tempe) and Sutherland.

Despite the coolness of winter, the three day program was, again, highly successful. Each team was out to show their croquet expertise and to defeat the opposition. Special thanks goes to the Committee and Members of Sutherland Club for allowing us to use their three lawns for the three days. Your assistance was greatly appreciated. Thanks also for the provision of all day food. Thanks also to the “helpers” from the Southern and Canberra teams who ensured the necessary “paperwork” was in operation. Also, to the “lawn magicians” who, each day, set up the lawns ready for action.

Once again the team of referees who presided over the matches – Bev, Wendy, Jacky, Rayna, Fay, Kath, Lynda, Lorraine - and the player referees who found the time to do some refereeing – were greatly appreciated by the players and the Tournament Committee. Referees are essential at all levels of competition. Your enthusiasm and commitment to croquet is great!

So, what happened?

Well, after six consecutive years of winning this division of Pennants, there was no joy of winning the seventh for Maitland Black. The foursome was toppled by the Canberra team who played too well throughout the whole Pennants program. Congratulations and well done Canberra! Your unbeaten results reflect the quality of your play. Commiserations to the other teams, especially the dethroned Maitland four.

The results can be found at [croquetcores.com](http://croquetcores.com)  
We hope to see all 2014 participants (and more) in 2015. Thanks to everyone who assisted in the running of the program though their involvement and cooperative effort.

Once again, congratulations Canberra.

*Robyn Compton  
Tournament Manager*

### Division 2

Division 2 for 2014 involved twelve teams from three geographical regions. At the end of regional play the four teams - Maitland Black, Manly, Nowra and Sutherland -

were to meet in the Finals Series. However, Maitland was unable to field a team and Mosman accepted the invitation to become the fourth team.

So, on Thursday 19 June, the warriors arrived at CNSW Headquarters (Tempe) to do battle. In the first semi-final the Nowra team (Phil Pickard, David Turvey, Wayne Worrall, Mike McKenzie) played against Mosman (Mary Gibson, Bill Knight, Richard Westgarth, Lyn Day). Nowra won 2/1 and thus proceeded to the Final.

The other semi-final involved Manly (Natalia Dunkley, Don Dunkley, Annette Du Preez, Roseanne White) and Sutherland (Tony McArthur, John Cole, Debbie Morgan, Gareth Denyer). Sutherland won 3/0 - so, into the Final.

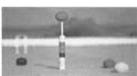
The Final was a real tussle with the Doubles going to the Sutherland team and both Singles going to 3 games and victory in both to Nowra. Congratulations to the winners, Nowra, and the runners-up, Sutherland, for your excellent play and sportsman(person)ship.

Thanks go to all players who fought out the rounds. The competition was, in the main, a close tussle in each region.

Special recognition and thanks go to the Referees (Bev Smith, Peter Smith, John Pace, Margaret Sawers and John Compton) who spent most of the day on the lawns.

I would also like to thank David Stanton for his dedication and expertise in collecting and collating the round results whilst I was overseas. Without his work the results would have been a mess. Thanks David!

CNSW hopes that 2015 is as successful as, and even bigger than, 2014.



*Robyn Compton  
GC Pennants Organiser*

### Division 3

In 2014, 12 teams from 3 geographical regions participated in the Div 3 GC Pennants. At the end of play the four teams to meet in the Finals Series were Canberra, Mosman Blue, Mosman White and Nowra.

So began a very busy day, Thursday 26 June, when they came by car loads to CNSW Headquarters (Tempe) ready for semi-final action.

In the first semi-final, the Nowra Team (Fay Marks, Ann Worrall, Glyn Williams and Terry Hoffman) played against Mosman White (Ron Barratt, John Owen, Michael Morton-Evans and Tim Stafford), with Nowra proving too strong and winning 3/0.

The second semi-final (played concurrently with the first semifinal) was between Canberra (Margo Davies, Gerda Lambeck, Andrew Davies and Judy Tier) and Mosman Blue (Jenny Willis, Marjorie Lehmann, Rob Wright and Ralda Kirton). After many hours of play, Canberra won 2/1 in a really close tussle

...Contd p. 14

## CNSW PENNANTS 2014

*GC Pennants contd from p13*

The Final between Nowra and Canberra was equally enthralling, with the winners being determined late in the afternoon on completion of the Doubles match. The Winners of Div 3 GC Pennants were Nowra, 2 matches to 1, with scores close on games and points.

Congratulations to both teams on their success in 2014.

It is of note that Nowra will be collecting both Division 3 and Division 2 Golf Croquet Shields at the end of the year. Well done!!! A feat not often achieved.

Thanks to the Referees (Bev Smith, John Compton, Margaret Sawers and myself) who spent many hours officiating.

Congratulations go to all players who took up their mallets to compete in Pennants for 2014. Obviously we hope to see you in Pennants in 2015.



*Robyn Compton  
GC Pennants Organiser*

## ASSOCIATION CROQUET

Association Pennants were played in four grades this year, Bronze, Silver, Gold and Premier. Bronze, Silver and Gold are all played as one doubles and two singles, while for the Premier Pennants, there are two games of doubles and eight games of singles in each match.

Seven teams took part in the **Bronze Pennants**, two teams from Cammeray and a team from each of Killara, Manly, Mosman, Strathfield and Sutherland. Every team won at least one match, and Strathfield came through the season winning every match, winning 13 games and losing 5.

Manly were a very creditable second, winning 5 matches out of 6, while winning 14 games and losing 4. Geoff Boyce won 3 of his 4 singles games for Strathfield, while Norman Fisher won 5 of his 6 singles games for Manly.

In the **Silver Pennants**, five teams took part, representing Cammeray, Chatswood, Mosman, Strathfield and Sutherland. Two teams, Chatswood and Strathfield, lost only one of their four matches, and they would have been even on 8 games won and 4 lost, until it was realised that Strathfield had contravened Regulation 72.9.

This regulation requires that, if there are two borrowed players playing in the same match, they must play in the doubles. So the result of the singles game changed from a win to a loss for Strathfield and from a loss to a win for Chatswood, giving Chatswood a better record on games won, and winning them the competition.

For Chatswood, Richard Thomas won all 3 singles games and the one doubles game he played. For Strathfield, Ron Buist (Killara) won both his singles games, and one of his two doubles games.

Only two teams, Cammeray and Mosman, entered the **Gold Pennants**. It was decided to play three matches, the first and third at Mosman, and the second at Cammeray. Cammeray was successful at each of these meetings, although Mosman fought back valiantly in the last two matches after having been soundly defeated in their first outing. Cammeray won all the singles games and the opening doubles, while Mosman had to be content with winning the last two doubles games. Hopefully more clubs will enter teams next year to make this a more interesting competition.

At the time of writing, the **Premier Pennants** competition has not been completed. Cammeray and Killara both travelled to Canberra in early July. On the Saturday Cammeray beat Canberra 7 games to 3, and Canberra beat Killara 6 games to 4 on the Sunday. Attempts to arrange a convenient time for Canberra to travel to Sydney to play Cammeray and Killara have been unsuccessful so far, and the AC Pennants co-ordinator is starting to lose patience. Hopefully some mutually convenient dates will be found soon.

*David Stanton  
AC Pennants Organiser*



### AC Platinum Singles 27-30 May

There was a field of ten players competing in this event: Mike Hughes (Cammeray), Tony Hall (Canberra), Nick Macoun (Killara), Stephen Howes (Cammeray), David Stanton (Cammeray), John Gilhooly (Milton –Ulladulla), Pam Gentle (Maitland), Ted Griffin (Cammeray), Larry Bryant (Newcastle NP) and, Bob Green (Epping).

Congratulations to **Tony Hall** who won the event from Mike Hughes, as runner-up.



### NSW GC Open Doubles 20-22 June

On Friday 20 June, 14 pairs met in good weather for the CNSW Open Doubles (3 Day) Tournament. Each pair played 13 single game matches in round robin format. The games were untimed, and, despite hustling and bustling some games were deferred due to nightfall.

The same thing happened on Saturday when night came too quickly. This meant we had 3 rounds plus a collection of deferred games to be played before the semi-finals and Final. It also meant the semi-finals and Final were reduced from the proposed 19 point games to 13 point single games.

At the end of the rounds and lots of close games the four pairs left to do battle were: Alison Sharpe and Chris Lavina, Joe and Lyn Dimech, Peter and Rosemary Landrebe, and, John Eddes and Debra Morgan (who emerged from the pack ahead of the Compton/Smith combination).

In the semi-finals- Pete and Rosie defeated Joe and Lyn (7/6) and Alison and Chris defeated John and Debbie. The Final was an interesting battle with **Alison and Chris** the victors over Peter and Rosie. Congratulations!

Congratulations to all 14 pairs on the standard of play, tenacity, and for their helpfulness in ensuring the competition proceeded smoothly.

Special thanks and appreciation to those who came bearing food, helped set up and clear the lawns and chairs, and, who worked hard keeping the Concordia children off the lawns.

Our 3-Day referees Bev Smith and Wendy Fothergill were kept very busy and did their usual great job. Ingrid Cohen assisted on the last day and her work was appreciated.

Obviously the timing of this event was popular as it offered a lead-in to other division 1 events. But, we may need to allow four days in the 2015 Calendar to overcome the problem of the late finishings.

Thanks again to everyone for their help and sportsmanship.



**Robyn Compton**  
**Tournament Manager**

### **AC Champion of Champions** **11-13 July**

This event attracted only seven competitors: Alix Verge (RSGC), Alison Sharp (Killara), Alan Walsh, (Chatswood), Alan Honey, (Canberra) Ted Salter (Hunters Hill), Ted Griffin (RSGC), Mike Hughes (Cammeray) and John Eddes (Sutherland). Interesting trivia - four 'Als' and two 'Teds'

Congratulations to the winner, **Alix Verge**. Ted Salter was the runner-up..



### **NSW Golf Croquet Bronze Medal** **18th - 21st July 2014**

Originally 10 players had accepted their invitation from the Selection Committee to play in this event. However, there were 2 late scratchings and the Magnificent 8 arrived ready for an 8am start on Friday 18 July. Each player had to play a "Best of 3" match against each of the other players.

On Day 1 - Friday - 3 matches were played by each player - finishing close to dusk. Saturday (Day 2), the players had 3 more matches each - this time we finished earlier. On Sunday (Day 3) the players were all keen for their final match and we were finished before Noon.

The standard of play was, as expected, of high quality - with no-one wanting to lose their matches. Such was the tenacity and the desire for points and games!

We were fortunate to have good weather, albeit cold weather, for the three days of play.

The players appreciated having referees - John Eddes, Wendy Fothergill, Stephen Howes, Jacky McDonald, Ros Johnstone, Kath Coull, John Bennett and Robyn Compton. Sincere thanks for giving at least one day to referee.

The results can be viewed on [croquetcores.com](http://croquetcores.com) and it can be seen that there were many close tussles, quite a lot of 7/6 or 7/5 games - reinforcing the quality of play by the 8 combatants.

Peter Freer (Canberra) was the victor and will represent NSW at the ACA Gold Medal in Adelaide from 3-5 September. John Levick (Newcastle) was runner-up, with Joe Dimech (Taree) finishing third from John Compton (Maitland).

Well done to all 8 players - seven of whom were from the country and three of whom were from Maitland Club.

Congratulations Peter and best wishes and good luck for a successful foray in Adelaide.



**Robyn Compton**  
**Tournament Manager**

### **CNSW Division 1 GC Doubles & Singles** **Forster 27-31 July**

In perfect weather the CNSW GC Division 1 Singles and Doubles were held at Forster Croquet Club from 27-29 July, and 30-31 July respectively.

Forster had applied in 2013 to host and help run some events for CNSW in 2014. CNSW has found that by taking some events to country centres there has been increased participation in the events.

#### **The Singles**

On Sunday 27 July, twenty-two Golf Croquet players began their quest for the Singles Trophy for 2014. The players represented Toronto, Taree, Urunga, Canberra, Newcastle, Sutherland, Forster, Mt Sugarloaf, Maitland, Port Macquarie, Sydney and Killara clubs.

Two groups of 11 players played a group single game round robin with the top two players from each group playing Best of 3 Semifinals and Finals.

### *CNSW Division 1 GC Doubles & Singles contd*

After two days of battle the semifinalists were: Joe Dimech (Taree), John Levick (Newcastle), Ron Johnstone (Sutherland) and Peter Freer (Canberra).

Semi 1 saw John Levick defeat Ron Johnstone, and in Semi 2 Peter Freer defeated Joe Dimech.

The defeated semifinalists were keen to play off for third and fourth places – this does not happen very often. So, in front of a crowd of more than 50 spectators, battle began on two lawns.

And the outcome – First, was John Levick; Second, Peter Freer; Third, Joe Dimech with Ron Johnstone fourth.

Congratulations to all twenty-two players, especially to the finalists.

### **The Doubles**

Hard on the heels of the Singles, the Doubles event was held on 30-31 July, with eleven pairs competing in a single game round robin format.

Once again, the competitors came from Canberra, Maitland, Taree, Port Macquarie, Newcastle, Urunga, Forster, Toronto, Sutherland, Mt Sugarloaf and Killara Croquet Clubs.

Again, in front of over fifty spectators each day, competition was focused and fierce for the Doubles Trophy.

The winners were Peter Freer (Canberra) and Stephen Thornton (Maitland), who by winning their final match, beat John Compton (Maitland) and Peter Smith (Maitland) for the title. Once again, congratulations to the winners and especially to all players.

Special mention should be made of the tremendous ways in which Forster Croquet Club helped ensure the events were extremely successful. The friendship and assistance given was superb – just what we had hoped for.

Thanks also to the fourteen referees who assisted over the five days, especially the group from Forster who took to the lawns every day for the whole series. Obviously thanks go to those referees who travelled to assist.

There were several handicap changes – not unexpected since there were 176 games of croquet played during the events. Full results can be found on croquetscores.com or on the CNSW website in the Results section.



**Singles Winner (John) and runner-up, (Peter) with President Neville Milne and referee**



**Doubles winners, Steve & Peter, with runners-up John Compton & Peter Smith and President Neville Milne**

**Robyn Compton  
Tournament Manager**

**Photos courtesy Peter Freer**



### **AC Open Singles 1-4 August**

The AC Singles attracted a field of twelve players: John Bartrop, Claire Bassett, Gareth Denyer, Ken Edwards, Steven Harden, Neil Hardie, Stephen Howes, Mike Hughes, Tim Murphy, Stephen Richards, Alix Verge and Alan Walsh. The event was played in two blocks.

Results:

Main draw: Alan Walsh beat Tim Murphy 26-10, 1-26, 26-1

Playoff for 3rd/4th: Claire Bassett beat Stephen Richards 26-9, 13-26, 26-9.

Plate event: Winner Alix Verge, runner-up Ken Edwards

Congratulations to **Alan Walsh**.

There was no official report for this event.



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

**NSW OPEN SINGLES**  
**August 9-11**

Twelve players entered for the 2014 NSW GC Open, after some encouragement from the NSW Office to boost the initial field. The need to save leave for the coming GC Nationals deterred some people who were working. The threatened rain held off, and it was fine, clear, sunny weather for all three days. Peter Freer (Canberra CC) was the undefeated leader after the first day, with no losses, but being pressed by Goffredo Giacomini (Sydney CC) and David Woods (Sutherland CC) who both played well above their handicap. David triggered from 4 to 3 during the tournament with a net 70 index point haul and Goffredo picked up a net 109 index points.

However the four into the knockout were the top 4 seeds, leaving Goffredo to take out the Plate from Pam Gentle (Maitland CC) who recovered from a very slow start in the block round. John Levick (Newcastle NP) and Peter Freer (Canberra) lost their semi-finals, despite each winning their initial game in their Best of 3, and John won third from Peter in another good bo3. Alison Sharpe (Killara CC) won the final against Nick Macoun (Killara CC) 7-5, 7-5 with a superb display of clearing balls from anywhere. Nick confirmed his steady return to form, with his typical careful play, and exuberance after pulling off a difficult shot/jump.

Gareth Denyer (Sutherland CC) gave a solid performance in his first major GC tournament, and will improve further. Richard Christian (RSGC) and Ros Johnstone (Sutherland CC) had mixed results – some great wins, and close losses. Ron Johnstone (Sutherland CC) had a disappointing tournament, and was often looking frustrated. Bernie McAlary (Wollongong CC) kept the rest of us honest.

Thanks to Wendy Fothergill as TR, and for helping run the event without a TM; referees Jacky McDonald and Fay Stove; John Eddes for the draw & Program; Nick Macoun for setting the hoops every morning (and chasing off illegal dumping in the car park); and Peter Freer for putting the results into croquetscores. The Sunday afternoon crowd at the Concordia Club was boisterous as usual (my favourite was the 4 year old boy repeatedly trying to place kick a glass beer stein off a long run-up, while his parents ignored the looming disaster until I couldn't stand it and intervened) - but the new fences worked pretty well in keeping kids & balls off the courts.

*Peter Freer*



*Action shots of John Levick and Peter Freer, taken during the Division 1 Singles at Forster*



*Unfortunately no photos were taken during the Open Singles.*

***Celebrating 110 Years of Strathfield Croquet Club***



*Photo taken by Rod Rimes*

## Nowra News

### Retired Police Enjoy Croquet

Nowra hosted the inaugural social day for the South Coast Branch of the NSW Retired Police Association on Friday 25 July. In resplendent winter weather, fifteen members of the RPA enjoyed a fun filled day of croquet provided by members of the Nowra Club. Some members of the RPA were unable to participate on the lawns but all enjoyed the "Soup and Sandwiches" luncheon prepared by club members. The visitors and club members are looking forward to making the day an annual event



*Photos of a Happy Day*

### Croquet players enjoy Shoalhaven City Council's Grant

Nowra Croquet Club has erected a sun shelter for members to enjoy whilst playing and watching the game of croquet. Having applied to be part of the Community Grants Scheme provided by Shoalhaven City Council, the Nowra club was awarded \$1000 towards the purchase of a sun shelter which was much appreciated. The grants are allocated annually in August, with a maximum grant to \$2000.



*David Turvey, Vivian Bell, Wendy Wade, John Deeves, Mike McKenzie, Gail Williamson, Terry Hoffmann and Glyn Williams*

*Bob Williamson  
Publicity Officer*

### *Vale*

**Keith Simpson**, who gave assistance to Manly Club since 1979 when his wife, Betty (Life Member) joined the club, Though not a player, his assistance in innumerable ways enabled the Club to run smoothly over all those years.



**Ada Somerville**, Lismore Croquet Club, died on 20 June 2014 aged 95. Ada was a long time member and indeed a life member of the Club. Ada championed the game of croquet. She gave of her time freely encouraging and coaching new members. Many members benefited from her wise counsel. Ada was Association Club Champion many times between 1977 and 1992. Ada held the respect of all members and she will be sadly missed.



**Tom Wright** (of Wollongong Club) died on 30 June, after a long battle with cancer. Tom was a Foundation member of the Club and a former member of Woonona, Hurstville and Sutherland Clubs. He was a kind, generous man who really enjoyed playing croquet and helping others to enjoy it too.



**This page was waiting for *Your Club's* entry  
but alas it did not come!**

With space to fill, some photos from the website seemed the best way to go. Enjoy!



*Nowra's successful Division 2 and 3 Teams for 2014 GC Pennants:*  
**Back Row:**  
*Wayne Worrall, Glynn Williams, Ann Worrall Val Pickard, Terry Hoffmann  
Annette Morris, Carol Williams, Fay Marks, Mike McKenzie, David Turvey*  
**Front Row:**  
*Keith Poynter, Margaret Sawers Club Captain, Pat Poynter, Philip Pickard*



*Have you met  
CNSW's new  
Secretary?*  
  
*Steve Thornton  
in a more relaxed  
mode*



*Tony McArthur (Sutherland) and Brenda Wild  
(Mt Sugarloaf) face the ever present dilemma—  
what to do next???*



*Peter Coles  
(Forster)  
focussing on his  
next shot*



*A study of concentration—Nic Macoun  
is watched by Greg Deakin*



*Richard Christian  
(RSGC) remains  
very composed*



*Sandy Coutts (Forster)  
watches his shot*



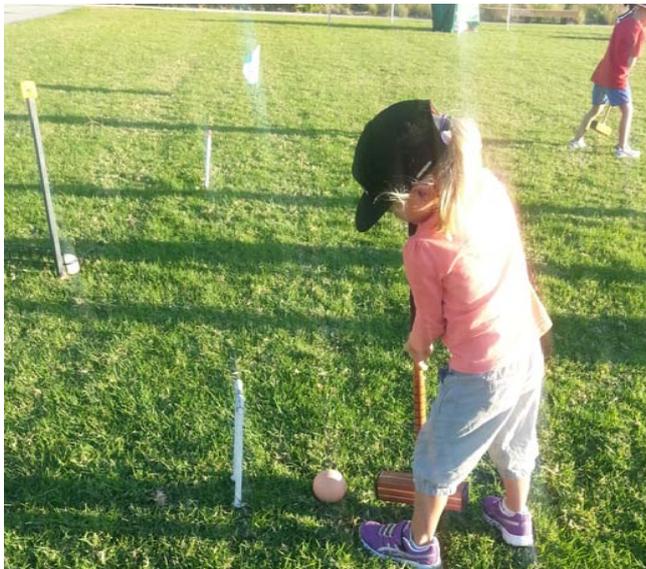
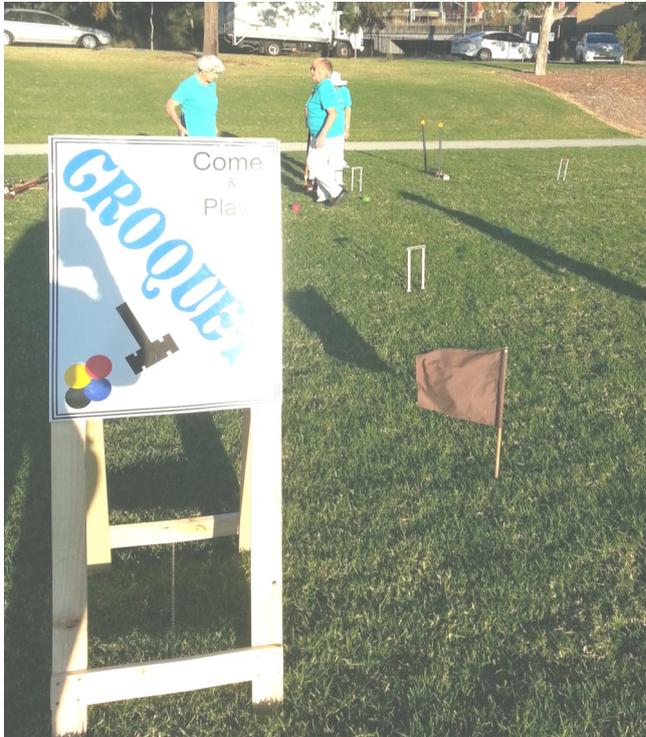
**The Newsletter is  
sponsored by the Department of  
Sport & Recreation**

*Nowra's photo courtesy Bob Williamson*

*Other photos (taken at Forster during CNSW's Division 1 Singles &  
Doubles competition) courtesy of Peter Smith*

## Holroyd Spreads the Word

On 28 May Holroyd Club accepted an invitation from Blacktown Council to take part in "Sports in the Park". Several ladies set up in Francis Park alongside Rugby League, Baseball etc. The weather was kind, the grass was long but we had a pleasant evening.



## A Win for Walla Wall Club

Battered Ball is a three-way competition between Albury, Wodonga and Walla Walla Clubs. It was started up about 8 years ago, by our then Pastor. Unfortunately Walla Walla has only won it three times, but we are happy to take possession for the next twelve months

*Wendy Tolley*



Farewell to the old shed forever,  
 Farewell to those four leaning walls.  
 We groaned and we moaned 'bout this eyesore,  
 Rejoice now, the shed is no more!

I can hear the collective sigh of relief and mutterings of 'not a moment too soon', but at last Marrickville Council has agreed that the shed had to go.

A smart new one, with no desire to rival the Leaning Tower of Pisa, will be installed in the near future.

*Photo courtesy Pam Gentle*