

CROQUET NSW Inc.

# Newsletter

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DECEMBER 2015

## *Alix Verge Inducted into Randwick City Hall of Sporting Champions*

At Coogee Croquet Club we are all proud of Alix Verge and savouring her every win.

Recently at a formal ceremony, the Mayor of Randwick City Council, Councillor Noel D'Souza, inducted Alix into the Randwick City Hall of Sporting Champions. The other recipient for 2015 was Russell Fairfax, an erstwhile rugby league hero in this Municipality.

Alix is not only a local champion at Coogee Croquet Club, but, as many of you know, has also won Championships at state, national and world levels. Alix is a member at Royal Sydney Croquet Club too.

Alix's involvement with local schools, the City East Community College and clubs has done much to raise the profile of croquet in the local area. Her dynamic style of play demonstrates that croquet is not just a sport for genteel retirees.

Her citation as Sporting Champion read:

*In winning the Women's World Cup Golf Croquet Championship in 2009, Alix Verge became the first Australian, male or female, to win a world championship in croquet. More recently she has won the Australian Women's Association Croquet Championship in both 2013 and 2014. Her enthusiasm for croquet has led not only to her mentoring experienced players at a national level, but also to introducing the game through coaching sessions to schoolchildren and other beginner groups.*



*Sporting Legends Russell Fairfax, Gary Ella and Alix Verge.*



*Randwick Council had produced photo postcards of the sports legends who all signed them for a long queue of fans. Perhaps this little girl is a World Champion of the future!*

*Rosemary & Robert King  
Coogee Croquet Club*



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## From the President

Firstly welcome to our first newsletter since the acceptance of our new constitution. I look forward to an exciting year during which we hope to adopt a number of changes for the organisation and to improve the whole management of the organisation.

I welcome our two new Directors, Rosie Landrebe and John Compton, to the board. Both Rosie and John bring with them considerable knowledge and experience of Croquet and also organisational expertise.

Congratulations to the ISS Representative Team, Well done team. I was lucky enough to attend the last day of the event in Launceston. It was great to see a well-oiled and cohesive team not only enjoying some great Croquet but also each other's company.

At the time of writing this report the Gateball Championships have as yet not been contested. I would like to wish all those involved in the upcoming NSW Gateball Championships all the best.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to Wendy Fothergill for all her hard work in preparing the regular Newsletter for the Association. Congratulations Wendy on actually having to add four pages for this issue. Great to see the contributions being offered.

I would also like to congratulate all the members of the upcoming Trans-Tasman Team. We all wish them well in the competition. I am sure they will do us proud.

Finally a great thank you to my board. I look forward to another exciting year.

I would also like to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I am looking forward to seeing you on the lawns.

I love this game !!!

**Tony McArthur**



## From the Editor

This is a bumper issue—I had to insert four extra pages to accommodate all the articles I was sent because I just can't say no when asked if there is still room.

Thank you to Bathurst, Blue Mountains, Branxton, Camden Park, Canberra, Coutts Crossing, Cowra, Hunters Hill, Manly, Mosman, Northern Rivers, Nowra, Port Macquarie, Sawtell, Taree and Toronto Clubs for the varied and interesting contributions. There is a good report on the Annual Makara competition and Gateball has an interesting report on the annual Competition.

Barb Piggott has submitted an important document regarding Coaching in the future—this is highly recommended reading, particularly for current and prospective coaches.

The State Teams are now wearing newly designed shirts when they represent us and there is a word from the sponsor of these shirts, Lonsec Stockbroking.

It is good to have our front cover acknowledge Alix Verge on her induction into Randwick City Hall of Fame. Well done Alix! We also have a belated account of the Women's World AC Championships held earlier this year—Alison Sharp was in the semi-finals.

Congratulations to all clubs for continuing to keep the game of croquet alive and well and for keeping us informed of your various activities. There are quite a few "personal best" stories contained in these pages. Well done all.

If your club does not appear in this issue, make sure it is in the next one!

Every best wish for Christmas and the New Year—may there be many happy hours of hooping!

**Wendy Fothergill**

**Closing date for next issue: Mid February 2016**



*During the Council Meeting held on 29 August, President Tony McArthur paid tribute to David Archer for all the work he has done to update the website.*



*Those present at the Council meeting endorsed Tony's recognition of David's work.*

*Did one of those empty chairs belong to your club's delegate?*

*Photos courtesy Peter Freer*

## BRANXTON CROQUET CLUB

On the week-end of the 8-9 August, our club hosted a very successful Doubles Tournament. Thirteen clubs participated with players as far north as Lismore, as far south as Port Hacking and all parts in between, staying over-night in the Branxton area for glorious two days of tournament.

Our very welcome official, Bob Pynsent Mayor of Cessnock City Council did the honours of presenting prizes to the winners and runners-up of the three divisions.

### Block A

**Winners: Alison Sharp** (Killara - just returned from competing in the croquet British Open, Scottish Open and The Women's World Cup) and **Tony McArthur** (Sutherland & President Croquet NSW).

**Runners-up:** Greg Deakin (Killara) and Trevor Black (Maitland)

### Block B

**Winners: Lana Sexton** (Manly) and **Charlie Sharpe** (Killara) - two young up-coming players.

**Runners-up:** Lorraine Hatfield and Lynda Toms (Port Hacking)

### Block C

**Winners: Margaret Mellander and Jan Allen** (EDSACC)

**Runners-up:** Margaret Redgrove and Ellen Jones (Maitland)

Many thanks to our sponsors, club members and helpers who made this tournament so very successful.

In other news, Branxton Public school is offering croquet as a sport again this term and sixteen students play on Fridays from 11:30 coached by our President Jacky McDonald who is the National Director of School Coaching of the Australia Croquet Association. Croquet, like golf, is a non-contact sport which can be played in mixed teams and at all ages. It teaches young people team spirit, fair play, hand-eye co-ordination, planning and strategy and requires minimal equipment.

Our Branxton players were well represented and successful in tournaments in Macquarie City and in Toronto. Congratulations to Helen Haines, Maureen Dick, Helen Enright, Anne Kennett, Lorraine and Rob Dillon.

In July we had our AGM and here is an extract of our President's report.

"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 Back Paddock is getting more use. I would still like to see more use made of play on a Thursday. We gained five new members and only one member left the district during the year.

The first Thursday of each month has been designated as a coaching day and even with a few misses seems to be

most successful with an improvement obvious in general play. Thank you to Helen Enright and Helen Haines for their assistance.

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

The club entered a team in the CNSW Division Three Pennants. While not successful they played well and learnt lots. Club Handicap Singles has been completed with Chris Robertson the winner and David Smith runner-up. Both of these players are new this year so well done to you both. The Doubles competition is under way at the moment. The Open Club Singles was won by Jacky McDonald and she combined with husband Geof to win the Open Club doubles.

Branxton members have competed at carnivals and Gala days at Muswellbrook, Maitland, Toronto, National Park, Macquarie City and Dungog. Our own social days were held for the Melbourne Cup and Christmas

My sincere thanks go to Carol H, Carol Mac, Anne and Chris for their assistance in setting the lawns each week and to the members of the Executive Committee - James, Helen Enright, Maureen, Helen Haines and Geof for the work they have done and the support they have provided during the year.

Jacky McDonald  
President"



*Winners Block A with Jacky McDonald, Helen Haines and Mr Pynsent,, Mayor of Cessnock*



*Winners Block B Lana Sexton and Charlie Sharpe — two up-coming young players*



*Winners Block C— Margaret Mellander and Jan Allen*

*Marie-France Klein*

## TAREE-ON-MANNING Golf Croquet Carnival

The Taree-on-Manning Golf Croquet Carnival was held from Wednesday 14 October till Friday 16 October. Croquet players from clubs as scattered as Wollongong, Orange and Sawtells as well as Newcastle, Port Stephens and local areas registered on Tuesday afternoon. During the practice session the only piece of poor weather struck. Wednesday and Thursday were pleasant, but Friday became very warm.

Participants ranged from ones who have played in numerous Taree Croquet Carnival to some who had never before played in a carnival anywhere. A couple of players from this latter group were amongst the winners.

Each day began with a doubles game for each player. This was followed by three games of singles. The games flowed freely and the easy going, friendly nature of all the players meant games were completed by mid afternoon. This gave the visiting players an opportunity to explore Taree and its environs.

All games were 13 point handicap play and the majority of games ended before the 50 minute time limit expired.

On Thursday evening most of the visitors attended a dinner at the 'Sailor's Restaurant' at the Aquatic Club on the banks of the Manning River. They had a very good meal and enjoyed much laughter and camaraderie and until darkness fell, had a pleasant view over the River.

Between playing and refereeing, Janine Crellin took over one hundred photos around the courts, printed proofs, and had orders printed at Office Works. Peter Coles launched his drone [with camera] and handed over a flash drive of photos. There were some great shots of the club grounds, Taree Park and the mighty Manning River.

Thank you Janine and Peter.

Thanks go to all who assisted or participated in the Carnival, as a Carnival cannot run without both assistants and participants. Special thanks go to Margaret who came with the Macquarie City players just to referee for the 3 days.

### Results:

#### **Doubles:**

**Block W:** Kay Barron (EDSACC) and Bernie McAlary (Wollongong)

**Block X:** Jan Ingham (Macquarie City) and Helen Cooper (Forster)

**Block Y:** Liz Kent (Taree) and Roy Corse (SW Rocks)

**Block Z:** Robert Greig (Forster) and Mick Ascoli (Macquarie City)

#### **Singles:**

##### **Block A:**

**Winner:** Bernie McAlary (Wollongong)

**Runner-up:** Mary Greig (Forster)

**3rd:** Kevin Page (Toronto)

##### **Block B:**

**Winner:** Liz Kent (Taree)

**Runner-up:** Janine Crellin (Taree)

**3rd:** Sandra Johnson (Macquarie City)

##### **Block C:**

**Winner:** Aileen Matlawski (Forster)

**Runner-up:** Mick Ascoli (Macquarie City)

**3rd:** Kay Barron (EDSACC)



*Tom Akre  
Tournament Manager*

*Top 2 photos: Courtesy Janine Crellin  
Bottom 2: Courtesy The Drone (Peter Coles)*

**MANLY CROQUET CLUB SEABREEZE  
COMPETITION 2015  
GOLF CROQUET**

A hectic golf croquet tournament is over for another year.

The A division was won by **Annette du Preez (Manly)** 7 from Herman Camphuis 1 (Port Macquarie);

**B division by Lorraine Hatfield (Port Hacking)** 7 from Elaine Coles (Forster) 4;

Doubles by **Herman Camphuis (PM) & Lisa Kelshaw (Manly)** 7 from Lorraine Hatfield & Lynda Toms (Port Hacking) 4.

There were fifteen Division A competitors, thirty in Division B and twenty pairs in the doubles. They were cheerful and co-operative which made for an enjoyable time.

Games ran from 8.30am to 5.30pm on Tuesday and Wednesday with early marks of 4.30pm on Thursday and 3.30pm Friday.

Thank you to all our scorers from host club and visitors. Without you the tournament would not function.

Fay Stove and Wendy Fothergill were visiting referees. Competitors Michael Strickland, Stephen Howes, Peter Coles, Elaine Coles, Lorraine Hatfield, Lynda Toms, Ron Johnstone, Jim Hicks as well as David Griffiths were obliging referees. A big thank you to you all.

*Elizabeth Clarke, Sheila Perry and Colin Bradford-Organisers.*



Another fantastic Seabreeze Tournament has just finished. Twelve days of fun, friendship and wonderful croquet. The first four days of golf croquet was very hectic with forty-five entrants in the singles and doubles events. The remaining eight days were set aside for Association Croquet where there were forty-two entrants.

**GOLF CROQUET**

The Golf Croquet results are shown above.

**ASSOCIATION CROQUET**

**Handicap Doubles**

**Winner:** David Stanton/Neil Hartley (Cammeray)

**Runner-up:** Michael Strickland/Ralda Kirton (Cammeray & Mosman)

**Handicap Singles**

**Winner:** Sue Nichols (Cammeray & Manly)

**Runner-up:** Sue Eldridge-Smith (Cammeray)

**Block 1 Singles**

**Winner:** Jim Hicks (Port Macquarie).

**Runner-up:** John Gilhooly (EDSACC)

**Block 2**

**Winner:** Rob Elliott (Coogee)

**Runner-up:** Michael Strickland (Cammeray)

**Block 3**

**Winner:** David Stanton (Cammeray)

**Runner-up:** Barbara McDonald (Cammeray)

**Block 4**

**Winner:** Andrew Morrison (Manly)

**Runner-up:** Evelyn Humpherson (Mosman)

**Block 5**

**Winner:** Blake Thompson (Manly)

**Runner-up:** Bernie Gibson (Manly)

**Block 6**

**Winner:** Mike Hebden (Cammeray)

**Runner-up:** Margaret O'Brien (Cammeray)

**Block 7**

**Winner:** Peg Jones (Manly)

**Runner-up:** Sue Eldridge-Smith (Cammeray)

**JEAN HAY TROPHY – most peg-outs**

**Winner:** Jim Hicks (Port Macquarie)

**MARY DUCKWORTH TROPHY- most hoops scored by a Bronze player**

**Winner:** Sue Eldridge-Smith (Cammeray)

A big thank you to all those that helped – referees, time-keepers/scorers, hoop setters, handicappers, kitchen helpers – and to the players for making this a wonderful tournament.



*Peg Jones shows her opponent her daunting picket fence of bisques!*

*David Gibson  
Manly Croquet Club*

**PORT MACQUARIE  
ANNUAL GOLF CROQUET CARNIVAL  
DECEMBER 16 – 18 2015**

Bright, sunny weather greeted the thirty-four players from twelve different clubs who joined two local players for our annual Golf Croquet Carnival. Unfortunately after the first day the clouds rolled in, a shower or two and cold winds made conditions more difficult but the players' enthusiasm was undiminished.

The doubles competition was held early each morning and comprised 4 seeded divisions of eight players. This format allowed the competitors a chance to practise in a more relaxed environment against players of similar ability.

In Blocks A & C the winners went through the three rounds undefeated, Block B was decided on a countback, Block D on a three-way countback.

Final results were :-

**Block A: Kevin Page** (Toronto) & **John Ball** (South West Rocks)

**Block B: Yvonne Bagnall** (Gloucester) & **Jan Sullivan** (Forster)

**Block C: Elizabeth Woods** (SWR) & **Lorraine Craig** (Macquarie City)

**Block D: Elaine Leech & Mick Ascoli** (Gloucester)

In the singles competitions, Elizabeth Woods remained undefeated for the three days in winning Block D and Mick Ascoli was unbeaten in Block F. Kevin Attwater of Port Macquarie used his local knowledge to win Block E in his first appearance at a carnival; in Blocks B and C the Forster club showed its depth by providing both winners and runners-up – Elaine Coles and Jan Sullivan both successful after a countback. There were quite a few surprising results in Block A with the 3 lowest handicap players all losing at least one game. Ultimately Kevin Page's consistency brought him success after many years of competing in Port Macquarie, conceding only 18 hoops in his 5 games.

Final results were :-

**Block A**

**Winner: Kevin Page** (Toronto)  
Runner-up: Joe Dimech (Taree)

**Block B**

Winner: **Elaine Coles** (Forster)  
Runner-up: Sandy Coutts (Forster)

**Block C**

**Winner: Jan Sullivan** (Forster)  
Runner-up: Robert Greig (Forster)

**Block D**

**Winner: Elizabeth Woods** (South West Rocks)  
Runner-up: Jan Ingham (Macquarie City)

**Block E**

**Winner: Kevin Atwater** (Port Macquarie)  
Runner-up: Bev Murray (Gloucester)

**Block F**

**Winner: Mick Ascoli** (Gloucester)  
Runner-up: Vivienne O'Toole (Nelson Bay)

Susan Shenton and other members of the host club kept the players well fed and nourished; Greg Freeman organised raffles each day with a multitude of prizes; Herman Camphuis provided free action photos of players in competition; other members, too many to mention by name, helped to make this once again a carnival which many visiting players attend year after year.

The Carnival will be held at a similar time next year; get your applications in early – every year we are unable to include all players who wish to take part.



*John Hincks*



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## MOSMAN PRIZE FOR GOLF CROQUET 2015

From 23—25 October Mosman Croquet Club held its annual open event for golf croquet players: The Mosman Prize. This year because of the demand we increased the entries to thirty-two. Eight players from Mosman and twenty-four from around the state battled for the substantial prizes generously donated by Geoff Grist of Richardson and Wrench Real Estate, Mosman and Neutral Bay. First Prize was \$300, second \$200, third \$150 and fourth \$100. Over the two and a half days everybody got plenty of croquet with a total of ten games. The weather started cool and wet on the Friday but then soon picked up to give us beautiful days on Saturday and Sunday.

Initially the players were divided into four blocks seeded by similar handicaps. The winners and runners-up in each block then went into a two-life elimination final. Everybody else still had a chance to win a prize in a consolation Plate. In the Blue Block three players had five wins: Jim Hicks (hcp1) from Port Macquarie, Steve Thornton (1) from Maitland and Michael Strickland (3) from Mosman, but on points Michael won the block with Steve second. In the Black Block it was the very experienced GC hand of Ros Johnstone (5) of Sutherland that just pipped the recent GC convert John Gilhooly (5) of EDSACC, both with six wins. There was a tighter fight in the Red Block with four players with four wins. On points the block winner was Brian Day (6) of Mosman with Lynda Toms (8) of Port Hacking as runner-up. The Green Block was won by David Snedden (8) of Mosman, playing in his first tournament, and Lisa Kelshaw (10) of Manly was second.

The elimination event then produced two very contrasting players in each of the two finals. In the final for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places Steve Thornton played David Snedden and in the final for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> places John Gilhooly played Lynda Toms. These four provided the entertainment while everybody else settled down to watch with a glass of wine and their gourmet lunch. There was a lot of support in the crowd for the two high handicappers and no doubt many were hoping to see an upset. But, it was not to be, in both matches experience proved the difference Steve won 7-2 and John 7-3.

The Plate was decided on the number of wins over the ten games of those who did not make the finals. The winner was Ros Johnstone with seven wins. Greg Deakin made a late run in the plate matches to come second.

We were lucky to have Wendy Fothergill as our tournament referee. She was there for the whole time. Fay Stove also came along and of course many of the players stood in willingly when not playing. Thank you all.

Thank you also to all at Mosman who contributed to the success of our tournament. These events are not possible without the support of the volunteers who give up their weekend: being there at the crack of dawn to set up, preparing and serving all that food and of course cleaning up everything afterwards.

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 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*

<https://goo.gl/photos/g2Y89Uzdsav61h5x5>

## GALA DAY AT COWRA

Tuesday September 15 dawned bright and sunny but very windy and players had to contest with that for the whole day.

There were twenty-three visitors from Hazelbrook, Orange and Young who travelled to participate in the friendship day where golf croquet was the game of the day.

Doug Leabeater from Young was once again the outright winner with Mick Tanner, Hazelbrook, second and third place went to Cheryl McNerney, Young.

The skills games were a popular fun sport to keep people occupied while not playing in the competition,

The winners there were Jeanette Young (Hazelbrook) for the ladder; Pat Nowlan (Young) on the Dollies; Doug Leabeater (Young) for Bagatelle, and Sandra Tanner (Hazelbrook) for eggs in the basket.

Many compliments were received on the condition of the courts and surrounds, our delightful club house, and our hospitality. It was a day everyone enjoyed on both social and sporting fronts.



*A view over the court during a game*



*Robyn Sutter (Orange) having a chat with Zelma Beecher (Cowra)*

**Chris Palazzi.**  
**Publicity Officer**  
**Cowra Croquet Club**

## CAMDEN PARK CROQUET CLUB

The Camden Park Croquet Club was formed about 1987 when Quentin Macarthur Stanham gathered together a group of interested locals to play on a lawn established by his father, Sir Reginald Stanham, on the Camden Park front lawn many years previously,

The original members were Quentin MacArthur Stanham, John and Joan Downes, Ron and Dylus Berry, Jim and Les Macintosh, Tim and Renate Yates, John and Virginia Hill, Diana Wilson, Beverly Northey and Lorne Noble, followed by others over the years.

John and Virginia Hill have moved to Rose Bay, Tim Yates is still an active member, while Ron and Dylus Berry's daughter, Pam Englesman, and a son of Diana Wilson (Rob) are current members.

With increasing membership, the single lawn at Camden Park could not accommodate all players for the single morning per week for play, so that Monday morning gathering accepted the generous offer of John and Virginia Hill to come and play at their home at Cobbitty, where there were two lawns and John's expertise as greenkeeper. John's and Virginia's hospitality was enjoyed until 2014 on the sale of their home.

Quentin Macarthur Stanham's son, John, and his wife, Edwina, have very kindly welcomed the croquet players back to Camden Park to share the Camden Park Cricket Ground where the croquet players have ample room for two lawns and the use of the pavilion for our morning tea.

So, we are back to where we started all those years ago, still with around sixteen to twenty members, who are comfortably accommodated on the two lawns we have marked out.

Due to modern demands, we have emerged from anonymity and become an incorporated entity and have rejoined Croquet NSW.

We were very grateful for the "Welcome Back" front page in the last issue of the Newsletter.

**Glenys McKenzie**  
**Secretary**

## NORTHERN RIVERS GC TOURNAMENT



For eight days more than forty-five players contested the annual Northern Rivers Golf Croquet

Competition played on the lawns of Lismore Croquet Club in Northern NSW.

Players came from all Croquet clubs in the Northern Rivers area, Alstonville, Ballina, Ballina Cherry Street, Casino, Lismore, with two players travelling from Tweed Heads to compete in several events. This event is the beginning of the Northern Rivers Croquet Tournament, from early September Ricochet and Association will be played in Ballina.

Players competing in the Golf Tournament in Lismore are offered a range of 11 different Events, ranging through from Novices, OBE's (Over B...y Eighties), various Handicap, Level and Open Events finally culminating in playing for the Crusader Cup, followed by a BBQ to celebrate the completion of this part of the tournament.

We are fortunate to have four referees in our region, three of whom took part in officiating during the tournament. This enables us to have Referees in charge during all events.

The various clubs assisted with scoring and catering duties with Lismore club members keeping all the records of events and results. Over the eight day period over 120 games were played, mostly in beautiful weather with only a few showers causing some concern for officials and players. Play started at 8am most days, with two mammoth days, one finishing at 6.30pm. Fortunately Lismore Lawns have lights.

Over the past three years the number of players entering the Golf Tournament has almost doubled, showing the growth of popularity Golf Croquet has had in the Northern Rivers Area. Unfortunately this has coincided with the decrease in Association players in most clubs. However, the introduction of Golf and Ricochet has enabled most Northern Rivers clubs to keep a healthy membership.

Originally the whole Tournament was held over two weeks, however in the last few years it has been split into two parts and been played in Lismore and Ballina. This has been very successful and we intend keeping to this format in future. The biggest concern for Lismore is if the Golf Tournament becomes too big, what will we do? Restrict entries? Something to ponder for next year, in the meantime we will just enjoy having hosted another successful half of the Northern Rivers Croquet Tournament.

*Fay Ross*  
*Tournament Referee/Lismore Club*

### Some photos taken during the week



*Doris Green,*  
*our "office staff"*



*Barry Waters, Deb Marten & Fay Ross discuss "that shot!"*



*Vaughan Fisher & Bruce Ross,*  
*our cooks extraordinaire!*



*Val Mitchell & Fred Moss*



*After a long day's croquet,*  
*a relaxing wine*



## TORONTO CC 2015

Toronto Croquet club members have been very active over the past year. Apart from our own club championships in Association and Golf Croquet, we ran the CNSW Division 3 Golf Croquet Singles and Doubles, a Golf Croquet Doubles Carnival and a most successful five day carnival taking in three days of Association croquet and two days of Golf croquet. See report below.

### Reflections of a tournament manager on the value of colleagues by Glen Coulton:

When I left to play in the Port Macquarie 60th Anniversary Association Croquet carnival (July 20-24, the week before ours), I was worried about how Toronto could possibly stage a carnival seven days later, given the battering our lawns had taken from the seemingly unrelenting winter rain. That the Association Croquet component on the first three days of our 5-day Toronto Winter Carnival turned out to be a great success was a tribute to two main factors.

The first was that the weather finally smiled enough on us to yield several days of clear, if still cool, sunshine. The second was the incredible effort expended by our Golf Croquet colleagues to make sure that the entire five-day enterprise went smoothly. The efforts of Ted Lyng and Kevin Davies in getting the lawns up to the standard presented - which the most experienced AC player in the field described as 'professional' - deserve the highest possible praise.

Our new president Marion Davies, and the MANY volunteers over the week are to be commended for their many hours of work in making the week a most enjoyable and successful Association and Golf Croquet carnival. This is reflected below, in winners from the various clubs that attended over the week.

We saw some very closely contested games of croquet played in a very sporting manner. The eighteen players in association travelled from Port Macquarie, Sawtell, Forster, Killara, Cammeray, EDSACC, Newcastle and Canberra. Eight of the association players stayed on to compete in the golf croquet doubles and singles event on the Friday and Saturday, joining players from Mt Sugarloaf, Branxton, Macquarie City, Nowra and some from Toronto. The format for this event was each player played two games of doubles and two games of singles daily.

Winners were –

### Association:

Block A: defending champion Jim Hicks (Port Macquarie) repeated his 2014 effort being undefeated. The hugely experienced Tony Hall (Canberra) was second.

Block B; Tom Maginnity (Sawtell) was the undefeated winner, securing a golden hoop win from the previously undefeated Bill Munns.

Block C: Forster rising star Jenny Baldwin was undefeated, securing a 9-7 win from Sawtell's Derek Burrows in the final game.

### Golf Croquet:

#### Doubles:

Block A: Tony Hall (Canberra) & Don Rankin (Branxton)

Block B: Derek & Brenda Burrows (Sawtell)

Block C: Rod & Lorraine Dillon (Branxton)

Block D: Judy Chidgey & Arthur Graham (Newcastle) and Jenny Baldwin (Forster). Arthur replaced Judy on Saturday after Judy had to withdraw.

#### Singles:

Block A: Graham Innocent (Forster)

Block B: Derek Burrows (Sawtell)

Block C: John Gilhooly (EDSACC)

Block D: Annette Du Preez (Cammeray)

Block E: Helen Enright (Branxton)

Block F: Bob Baldwin (Forster)

Block G: Anne Kennett (Branxton)

A dinner was held at Toronto Royal Motor Yacht Club on Thursday evening with many players and club members attending.



*Tony Hall and Don Rankin*

*Anne Kennett on right*



*John Gilhooly*

*...Contd on p. 11*

*Toronto contd from p. 10*

Thank You Barbecue was held in August. All who were able to attend enjoyed the fun games and lunch. One of our sponsors, Alison Trigg, was able to join us

### **Croquet NSW Events**

Toronto hosted the NSW Golf Croquet Division 3 event from 23-27 February. Doubles were won by Lynda Toms and Lorraine Hatfield from Port Hacking and Bruce Glasgow from Toronto was successful in the singles giving Toronto one of its first successes in a CNSW event. Also Margaret Pedemont from Toronto was the creditable runner up. At other venues during the year Shirley Page and Marie Munns were runners up in the NSW Golf Croquet Division 2 doubles at Taree and Bill Munns with Peter Coles from Forster won the Division 1 Doubles at Nowra.

### **Other Activities**

**To improve player skills, knowledge and rules of croquet**, on each Wednesday of the month there is a monthly golf croquet competition, both singles and doubles, with the winner being the person with the highest net hoops. Prizes will be from donations received from Toronto business houses. Experienced members provide updates on rules. Some coaching clinics have been run throughout the year,

Ricochet croquet is gaining interest in our club with exchange visits with Nelson Bay and EDSACC. The club is planning to hold our very first ricochet gala day next year. So Ricochet has lots of plans for the future.

The next Golf Croquet tournament will be in November - The Lake Macquarie Games sponsored by Lake Macquarie City Council. Formal activities for the year conclude with our Christmas Luncheon to be held at the club in early December.

Toronto Club shares the grounds with the local cricket club. The four lawns for croquet are set up on one side of the oval. This does present challenges for the dedicated workers that maintain and look after these lawns, as the general public also use this area for various activities, and this has a huge impact on the condition of the lawns. It would be ideal to have a stand-alone area designated for Toronto Croquet Club.

On a lighter note happy croqueting, and have a safe and happy Christmas.

*Michell Foo  
Publicity*

## **BLUE MOUNTAINS CROQUET CLUB**

### **Valé**

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Mr Jim Mills of Leichhardt Street, Blackheath, who was appointed President of the club with the late Michael Lyle as Vice five years ago. Along with his wife Erol he was a keen player of golf croquet. He was also a very talented musician; he played the piano and participated in the annual Blue Mountains jazz festival. Also he was a performing member of the Blue Mountains Radio Players. All in all a very talented man! Our sincere condolences are extended to Erol and family. Jim was farewelled at 3.00pm on Thursday, 3 September at the Leura Memorial Gardens.

### **Intrastate Tournaments.**

On 7 October 2015 three players from the Blue Mountains Croquet Club, namely John and Lorraine Friend and Jan Vaughan, travelled to Young to compete in their Spring Golf Croquet Tournament. John and Jan found themselves to be partners in the doubles and the trio played admirably with Lorraine and her doubles partner Cheryl McInerney from Young winning their respective block and John and Jan being runners up in theirs. The weather though mostly hot didn't dampen the spirits of our intrepid group and a good time was had by all.

*Barry Moray  
President*

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### **LIGNUM VITAE MALLET**

At the June Sawtell Golf Croquet Tournament Graeme Morrison, handicap 3 from Rosebud Village Glen Croquet Club, Victoria played with a most interesting mallet. It may have been over 100 years old and the head was made from lignum vitae wood supported by a hickory handle. Lignum vitae is a timber indigenous to the Caribbean and northern coast of South America. It is one of the hardest timbers known resulting in widespread historical usage. Because of its durability and hardness, Graeme's mallet did not require any extra material on the face.



*Bill Munns*

## CANBERRA CLUB AT FLORIADE

'We love croquet!' three of our young croquet 'players' called out as they waved from the Floriade train.

The success of any public relations event is difficult to predict. But all the elements were in our favour for our three days at Floriade. We had a prime position, perfect weather, keen and happy volunteers, the Eire cup for a day and two giant robots joining in the fun.



*"Our Lawn"*

More than 650 enthusiasts were shown the basics of golf croquet and quickly proceeded to a six hoop game. Fortunately we had primary, secondary and tertiary balls which avoided confusion on our quarter size lawn. At times the competition between players decided who would pay for dinner or sleep on the couch. On Sunday morning we showcased Gateball.



Our aim was to introduce mallet sports to the public and we assuredly did this to people from all Australian states and particularly regional NSW. We are very grateful to Croquet NSW for their croquet banners, postcards and \$300 grant which covered our costs.

We distributed 20 vouchers for a free two hour lesson, hundreds of croquet postcards and many hiring vouchers.

*Judy Tier  
Promotions Officer  
CCC Management Committee*

## FIRST TIME GOLF PENNANT

For many years now four clubs Woolgoolga, Sawtell, Urunga and South West Rocks have been enjoying regular Golf Croquet friendship days. Each club hosts one event a year sometimes with up to 60 players taking part – quite a challenge for the host clubs with only two courts.

For many players this was the only chance to play with other than their own club members and all have been relishing the challenge. At the end of last year it was decided to expand the challenge and run our first Golf Croquet Pennant competition.

We started with Division 3 and the **South West Rocks Club** was the winner. With one round to go SWR and Woolgoolga both had 4 wins – the final match was played at Woolgoolga - SWR won both singles games, but lost the doubles. Enough to give them the first pennant.



Winning Team L to R. Marilyn Turton, Roy Corse, Marg Corse, Myrtle Papworth.

### About The Team:

**Myrtle Papworth** moved to SWR four years ago. She had always been interested in Croquet and took the opportunity to play. She joined the club 2 years and 4 months ago and is still enjoying the game and retirement.

**Marilyn Turton** – saw the game played on the screen and wanted to have a go. She played her first game at Urunga on the SWR Ladies Golf Mystery Trip and was hooked. Marilyn is the longest serving financial member by a few minutes. She plays twice a week and was the first Secretary of the club. Marilyn said "I thoroughly enjoyed every game I played in the Pennant Competition. A great group of players from the other clubs."

**Marg and Roy Corse** moved to SWR only two years ago and neighbour Myrtle Papworth introduced them to the game of croquet. Marg says "we love the friendliness of our club and meeting and playing with other clubs."

On Tuesday 20 October the pennant players joined the Sawtell club members for a morning's play and presentation of the shield. Plans are underway for next year with a hope of expanding to have two divisions play.

*Jenny Arnold  
Sawtell Croquet Club*



# MAKARA 2015

Following the tradition first established just over 30 years ago, **MAKARA 2015** delivered two weeks of fiercely competitive - but very friendly - croquet. Detailed results of all the events can be found on *CroquetScores.com*.



The Bronze and Silver Singles events were hosted by Strathfield Club. Winner of the **Bronze Singles** (and the Wilson Trophy) was **David Woods (Sutherland)** with Susan Howland (Strathfield) as runner-up.

Heather Smallbone presented the Reid Trophy to **Charles Britton (Marrickville)**, who was winner of the **Silver Singles** with David Surridge (Camberay) as runner-up.



The **Gold/Platinum Singles** were hosted by Coogee Club. The winner of this event (and the Makara Trophy) was **Rob Elliott (Coogee)**.



The Bronze/Silver and Gold/Platinum Handicap Doubles events were hosted by Marrickville Club. **Bronze/Silver Doubles** winners were **Ros Johnstone & Ann Shaddick (Sutherland / Strathfield)** with Wal Fernance & David Woods (Sutherland) as runners-up.

**Gold/Platinum Doubles** winners were **John Eddes and Gareth Denyer (Sutherland)**.

All the GC singles events were hosted by Port Hacking Club.



Winner of **Division 1** was **David Woods (Sutherland)** with John Eddes (Sutherland) as runner-up.

**Division 2** was won by **Lynda Toms (Port Hacking)** with Lorraine Hatfield (Port Hacking) as runner-up.



Winner of **Division 3** (and the Fernance Trophy) was **Dianne Bonnitcha (Sutherland)** with Wal Fernance (Sutherland) as runner-up.

The **GC Handicap Doubles** event was hosted by Sutherland Club.

Prizes were presented by CNSW Board Chair Tony McArthur to winners and runners-up from each block as follows:

## Block M

**Winners: Frances Schembri & David Woods (Sutherland)**  
Runners-up: Lenora Everton & Bill Muller (Wollongong)



## Block K

**Winners: Deb Morgan & John Eddes (Sutherland)**  
Runners-up: Lana Sexton & Charlie Sharpe (Manly/Killara)

## Block R-

**Winners: Roberta Flint & Charles Britton (Marrickville)**  
Runners-up: Val Robinson & Anne Cullen (Port Hacking).



The round-robin (with over half the games played in some very heavy, wet conditions) was followed by a nail-biting finals series played in partly sunny conditions (!! ) with the eventual winners of the Taylor Trophy being **Lana Sexton and Charlie Sharpe**.

Finally, a very big thank-you to the event managers, players, referees, and support teams from the various clubs!

Without you all, **MAKARA** could not happen.

*Lorraine Hatfield*  
*Secretary, MAKARA Committee 2015.*



## COACHING UPDATE

A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes in the past 6 months on a new coaching structure to be introduced throughout Australia on behalf of the Australian Croquet Association (ACA) and to obtain accreditation through the Australian Sports Commission (ASC).

Some of the changes outlined in this update to allow coaches to know what has and is happening.

### Governance

The Croquet Australia Coaching Committee (CACC) has been set up with terms of reference set by the ACA Board. Current members are:

Barb Piggott NDC GC

Greg Whymark NDC AC

John Park – ND GB

Jacky McDonald ND U21

It is CACC that approves curriculum and related issues within the structure approved by the ACA Board, and CACC reports to the ACA Board after every meeting. The minutes will also be distributed to the SDCs.

### The New Coach Training Structure

The new structure has been approved by the ACA Board, and a Pilot Level 1 Foundation Coach course will run at Bribie Island Croquet Club on 9/10 December covering all FOUR codes

The qualification requires endorsement in at least one discipline, but can be all four (GC, AC, Ricochet, GB).

The level 1 course is designed to take one day

The level 1 course has two important prerequisites.

CCGP (Community Coach General Principles and is available free on the ASC website at <https://learning.ausport.gov.au/auth/login/?returnUrl=%2F>), and The basic skills card for any discipline for which they are seeking endorsement (these will be available on the Coaching page of CNSW website in the near future).

### Basic Skills Cards

Basic skills cards are designed to be a useful tool for both player and coach. They are “owned” by the player but can be used by both player and coach as a goal or motivation for player improvement at the basic levels. In addition they will be closely linked to the Foundation coach training. It is only at the Club Coach (Level 2) that in the new system the coach is trained to develop a program and goals for the player.

They have been developed for all four codes, and a level 1 coach will be trained to teach the skills a player needs to complete the card.

Note that all applicants for level 1 Foundation Coach Course have to complete the basic skills card for their discipline BEFORE the course.

### Launch of new coach training - NDC visits to each state

The NDCs will visit each state to both explain the new system and conduct the first level 1 foundation Coach Training Course. Note that only one NDC will visit each state but that all disciplines required by that state will be covered.

NSW, Victoria, Tasmania: NDC GC (Barb Piggott).

QLD, SA, WA: NDC AC (Greg Whymark)

### CCGP

**Question:** If coaches have done in last 3 years the Beginning Coaches General Principals do they still need to do CCGP for new program?

**Answer:** Yes

**Reason:** The new training package is built on a list of competencies. Some of those are covered in the CCGP and were not in the old GP. The CCGP is short, focussed and relevant, and is worth doing. Both NDC's have completed the CCGP even though they had done the Intermediate GP and the Beginner GP.

### Reaccreditation in the future

**For the future:** All accredited coaches will retain their qualification until their reaccreditation date as per normal, without having to do the CCGP. However they will have to do the CCGP to reaccredit into the new system.

From January 2016, as players in NSW apply to become a registered coach or apply to have their current registration reaccredited they will have to complete the Level 1 Foundation Coach training, including all pre-requisites. An updated Application for Coach Training / Reaccreditation will be available on the CNSW website before the end of 2015. A list of those Coaches requiring reaccreditation in 2016 will also be placed on the website in December.

Work is currently underway with the Web Master to ensure that the new system is incorporated into the Yearbook so players will easily be able to see who is accredited under both the old and new coaching systems.

Further updates will be placed on the CNSW website as the information is available and authorised for release. If you have any questions, please contact me on 042 762 9953 or at [johnpiggott@bigpond.com](mailto:johnpiggott@bigpond.com)

**Barb Piggott**

**SDC, CNSW**

## Women's World Association Croquet Championship 2015

The 2015 Women's Worlds AC Event in England in August was even bigger and better than the inaugural event in Australia. The event was over subscribed with the WCF having to expand the number to 48 entries and host a qualifying event in Nailsea, that saw Rosemary Newsham from QLD, Anne Quinn from Vic. and Virginia Arney from SA all qualify into the main event.

From the challenging games and matches, to the well prepared lawns that got faster as the tournament progressed, and the army of volunteers mowing and setting up lawns as well as preparing delicious meals every day, nothing was a problem and the hospitality shown to all was extraordinary. The weather was probably as kind as it could be, and except for an appropriately timed shower at the opening ceremony and a drenching on the first Sunday, mostly confined itself to the occasional shower and even some sun in the last few days.

This was a tournament of some very important "firsts" Extensive and well managed media coverage by David Brydon. Timely updates and comprehensive commentary via croquetscores.com, as well as extensive use of social media with photos and comments continually being uploaded and even drone images! An increase from four participating nations at the initial event to eleven this year. Importantly increased interest and participation from players in the UK, and the flow on effect that preparation for this event is having on coaching and women participating in events in good numbers for the first time in England. The introduction of a dedicated charity close to all our hearts Cancer Research that benefitted from our good fortune and fun.

As a player the event felt professional and angst free. Peter Death the tournament manager was player focused, inclusive and committed to enabling us to perform at our very best throughout the event. The overall standard of play, the tripling stats etc at this event exceeded the Melbourne event and will no doubt continue to grow. What was really evident was the "hungriness" of the play with many more triples attempted and advanced leaves being executed. Plenty of post match analysis and discussion, advice sought, resolutions to practise/play more and try new things.

The conditions especially in the first few days were a shooters paradise which resulted in some exciting fight

backs for spectators to enjoy. Another interesting and innovative aspect of the event was the acknowledgement and acceptance of our differences. Thanks go to the English players for tolerating the Aussies tossing for balls, saved us sprinting to the lawns early! And in return we are keen to take up 10am starts - a very civilised concept!

What was evident was that we all have croquet traditions and none of these were hard to accommodate, none caused ridicule or offence, no one nation's traditions were more valid than anyone else's. Alison Sharpe was the standout Australian performer, winning all the games in her block, but unfortunately being knocked out in the semi final.



Miranda Chapman is a well deserved champion, she is a focused, skilful and dedicated player reaping the rewards of her commitment to excellence and will continue to be a dominant force in the future.



*Alison during her semi-final against Miranda Chapman (photos copied from the web)*

*Rosemary Landrebe*



## Division 1 Doubles and Singles Events

Perfect weather in Nowra, along with superb Club hospitality, provided the right start, middle and finish to the CNSW GC Division 1 Doubles and Singles Events. Sincere thanks go to Nowra Croquet Club for offering to host these two events from Saturday 15 to Wednesday 19 August, and for their expertise in doing so, also to the Referees whose work is always appreciated. Special thanks go to Ann Worrall (computer data entry whiz) and David Turvey (TM for the Singles).

In the **Doubles**, eleven pairs representing Nowra, Canberra, Maitland, Port Macquarie, Taree, Sutherland, Forster and Toronto, took up the challenge in a big way. After two days of solid competition, with 18 matches having a 7/6 result and 17 matches having a 7/5 result (out of the 55 matches played), there were three (3) teams who had each won 7 of their 10 matches.

Coming in third was the Nowra pairing of Wayne Worrall and David Turvey. The runners up were Peter Smith and John Compton (Maitland), with the winners, by 1 nett hoop, being **Peter Coles (Forster) and Bill Munns (Toronto)**. A great result after such highly competitive matches.

The **Singles** (held on Monday and Tuesday, with the Finals Series on Wednesday) was played in two Blocks each with eight players, representing Canberra, Sutherland, Royal Sydney GC, Toronto, Port Macquarie, Forster, Taree and Nowra Clubs. Again 33 of the 56 games were 7/6 or 7/5.

From Block A the Semi-finalists were Peter Freer (Canberra) and Peter Coles (Forster), whilst from Block B the Semi-finalists were John Deeves (Nowra) and Joe Dimech (Taree).

The Final Series was a Best of Three format – but none of the matches needed the third game.

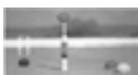
Peter Freer (Canberra) defeated Joe Dimech (Taree), whilst Peter Coles (Forster) defeated John Deeves (Nowra) in the Semi-finals..... with identical scores 7/6, 7/4.

The Final ended as **a win for Peter Freer 7/5, 7/3** over Peter Coles.

Congratulations to all players in both events... and especially to the Finalists.

The results for both events (Doubles and Singles) can be found on Croquetscores.

*Robyn Compton  
TM for the Doubles  
On behalf of the CNSW Tournament Committee*



## CNSW Selectors 6

Wagga Wagga Croquet Club hosted this event 29-30 August. Six players, five from Sydney and Tony Hall from Canberra, braved the cool foggy mornings, which turned into lovely sunny afternoons, perfect for croquet. Overall it was a very close competition; going into the last round of the block play there was the potential for a 5 way tie, which thankfully for the manager didn't eventuate. To maximise the number of games for the weekend there were playoffs 1 v 2, 3 v 4 and 5 v 6.



Mike Hughes (Cammeray – pictured right) was the eventual winner, losing only 1 game for the weekend to runner up Robert Elliott (Coogee – pictured left).

Tony Hall completed the only Triple Peel for the weekend. The players were very appreciative of the effort that the club and Wagga Wagga council had put into getting the lawns prepared and enjoyed the challenge on the new lawn, as

quoted: “makes it more interesting”.

*Jim Nicholls*



## NSW GC Handicap Singles 26-28 August

This event consisted of a round robin with seventeen contestants divided into two blocks for the initial round robin.

Emerging from this group to fight out the finals were Don Rankin and Peter Montague, with Don prevailing as well as Steve Thornton and Bill Munns from the other block, with Steve moving on to the final.

The final best of three was between Don Rankin and Steve Thornton, with Don prevailing, 6-7, 7-5, 7-6.

You could hardly get a closer match!



## Sponsor of Team Shirts

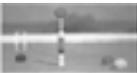
Croquet NSW is delighted to have Lonsec Stockbroking as a sponsor of our state AC, GC and Gateball Team Shirts for three years. Just like our state teams Lonsec have been at the top of their game having won the "Rate the Raters" award for researching investments four years running, from 2009-2012.

For more than 20 years, Lonsec has empowered financial services professionals with disciplined, actionable investment research, securities services and strategies that add value to their client relationships. While the services offered have evolved over time, uncompromising quality and client focus remain paramount.

Today, the broader Lonsec Group continues to provide financial advisers, superannuation funds and investors with integrated market intelligence and investment services that ultimately help people to prosper.

Lonsec Research provides in-depth, investigative investment research across a broad range of listed and unlisted investments. Our expert team of experienced investment analysts and consultants provides insight and analysis, practical asset allocation and portfolio construction advice.

Lonsec Stockbroking provides high quality securities services tailored to the needs of finance professionals and decision makers, offering informed opinions on appropriate investment strategies, portfolio reviews, model portfolios and skilled execution.



## GC INTERSTATE SHIELD 2015

The Golf Croquet Interstate Shield was held in Launceston, Tasmania, in September. The NSW team consisted of six first-time members – Brenda Wild from Mt Sugarloaf club, Liz and Peter Montague from Killara, Margaret Sawers from Nowra, Steven Harden from Tamworth and Peter Smith from Maitland, with Rosie and Peter Landrebe (Cammeray), vice-captain Peter Freer (Canberra) and captain Pam Gentle (Maitland). Unfortunately Peter Smith was unable to play due to ill-health.

The competition was played at the St Leonards Croquet Centre with eight lawns, and on an additional four lawns converted from soccer fields. The two venues were very different, with teams taking turns on the soccer ground lawns, which presented quite a challenge! NSW played there on the first day, and fortunately were on the St Leonards lawns for the rest of the competition.



*The Team Shirts on display!*

Although we were disappointed to come fourth overall, we had some very close matches, and lost narrowly to Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria with good wins over Queensland and Tasmania. The winners of the Interstate Shield were Victoria, with South Australia runners-up. We look forward to taking the experience of this competition to Perth next year.

*Pam Gentle  
Captain*



## AC Gold Brooch 7-9 September

From a field of just four players, John Bartrop, David Hanbidge, Stephen Howes and Steve Miles, **John Bartrop** emerged as the winner with David runner-up.



## AC Platinum Brooch 29 September—10 October

Another small number of entrants—John Bartrop, John Eddes, David Hanbidge and Mike Hughes—saw **Mike Hughes** emerge as the winner with John Eddes as runner-up.



## AC Open Singles 30 October—2 November

There were nine entrants for this event: John Bartrop, Gareth Denyer, David Hanbidge, Stephen Howes, Mike Hughes, Rosemary Landrebe, John Levick, Ted Salter and Alan Walsh.

The finalist in the X event were Rosemary Landrebe and Ted Salter, with **Rosemary** prevailing.

In the Y event **Alan Walsh** was the winner, with Mike Hughes the runner-up.

The Plate was won by **Gareth Denyer**, with David Hanbidge as runner-up.



## GC Champion of Champions 17-19 October

Eight NSW Club GC Champions played in the 2015 NSW GC Champion of Champions at Tempe. A notable apology was from John Levick (Newcastle NP) who was still on a cruise - caught out when the event was brought forward. Eight was a disappointing field, especially given John Eddes' efforts to boost the numbers. Clubs are encouraged to send their Champions in 2016 - we can't all win, but it is great experience playing a range of players with very different styles & skills.

The threatened storms held off, and it alternated between very hot sunny weather, and grey clouds, for the three days. Tempe lawns were very quick in the sunny weather, and only slightly slower when cloudy. The Atkins quad hoops punished bad shots, but good shots ran the hoop well and most of us forgot the Atkins were there after the initial games.

Top seed, Peter Freer (Canberra) provided encouragement to the rest of the field by promptly losing two of his first three matches; and David Woods (Sutherland) led after Day 1 (six games) from John Deeves (Nowra), Joe Dimech (Taree) and Goffredo Giacomini (Sydney). Peter had a better Day 2, winning all 6 matches, but was pressed by Joe, David and Steve Thornton (Maitland). Bill Munns (Toronto) and Trevor Thornton (Port Macquarie) were not getting many wins, but kept the rest of us honest.

The first match on Day 3 saw the de facto final, with Peter defeating Joe 7-3 in a must-win game for Joe. Final outcome was Peter Freer defending his 2014 title - Canberra has now won three out of five GC Champion of Champions held so far). Joe Dimech was a close second, and Goffredo Giacomini edged out Steve Thornton for third place.

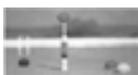
Thanks to John Eddes as TM; to Wendy Fothergill as TR; and to the other referees - Lynda Toms, Lorraine Hatfield, Faye Stove & Stephen Howes. The Sunday afternoon crowd at the Concordia Club was not quite as boisterous as usual, perhaps because some were at Cycle Sydney? The fences worked well keeping kids & balls off the courts.

Shot of the tournament was a yellow Frisbee floating upside down onto the middle of Lawn 1, with Mackey Park deserted. It had been dropped by a sulphur crested cockatoo, who was then too chicken to retrieve it, but hung around for a while screaming from the light tower, looking for an opportunity....



*Some of the participants on the last day*

*Wendy Fothergill (TR), Bill Munns, Lynda Toms, Steve Thornton, Peter Freer, Lorraine Hatfield & John Eddes (TM -obscured) -*



*Peter Freer*

## COUTTS CROSSING CROQUET CLUB

At Coutts Crossing in 2015, it was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness. The Clarence Valley Council asked for tenders for a ten year lease on the croquet facilities, with land to build a second lawn. We made the only bid. We ticked all the boxes. The council officials gave us a five star rating. But a group in Coutts Crossing who are against progress, got to the Mayor, and had the decision postponed till mid December. We live in hope. Just over two years ago the croquet court was on the verge of being closed. With a grant already in our pockets for modern seats and shades, money for landscaping, a healthy war chest, and a growing enthusiastic membership, we have managed to guarantee croquet will flourish in our area for years to come, once the lease is signed.

Croquet has been played at Coutts Crossing for 35 years, but only in August did we have our first AC championships: round robin play for the 'gold' players one weekend and for the 'silver' and 'bronze' on subsequent weekends. We know our quality of play is low. Perhaps we should have called the groups copper, nickel and lead. It all means we need more training and exposure to other clubs. Three of our players have achieved 10 hoop turns recently, but our best player's handicap is only 12. Congratulations to the three group winners, Peter Martin, Jim Algie and Gillian Martin



We have a rising star in Abbie Ellis. Just fifteen, she has played AC for two years, but three months ago tried GC for the first time in order to enter the NSW Schools' Championship. She came a highly credible fifth. Her only singles GC games before the tournament had been against her 'coach'. He had played singles GC only once away from Coutts Crossing, and had not attempted a jump shot; nor had Abbie. She was the only player to score a victory over the eventual tournament winner. Imagine: 2016, Abbie, plus a jump shot, unstoppable! .



*... contd on p. 19*

## **RIVERSIDE GIRLS HIGH SCHOOLS / HUNTERS HILL CROQUET CLUB**

Surrounded on three sides by trees and shrubs and situated in a tranquil corner of Figtree Park, the Hunters Hill CC is the perfect setting for a relaxing or competitive game of Association or Golf Croquet. The twenty-three members have the use of a spacious and well-equipped club house, which is also available for hire to organisations or for private functions.

Formerly a ladies bowls club, the Croquet Club was formed in 1983 and since that time has been an enjoyable venue for the many members who have used the lawn.

For over ten years the Club has had a close association with the Riverside Girls High School. Croquet has been one of several 'experience activities' undertaken by year-nine girls. This arrangement meant that a group of girls (about 24 at a time) would visit the Club four or five times per term. These sessions, led by Club coach Ted Salter, started with mallet handling, hoop running, and roquet shots and progressed to fine take-offs and other skills. To finish each session the girls would play a round of golf croquet and it was interesting to see the levels of skill and friendly competition these games generated.

A particular success was the 'Gala Day' held on 9 November. 'Bagatelle', 'Knocking down the dolls', 'Hitting the balls into a small circle', 'Jump shots' and 'Continuous hoop running' were the favourite activities. The crowning (antler ears) of the girl with the highest score (Meg Jansen) and the handing out of numerous Minties ended this excellent session. (Meg actually scored three jump-shots out of four – how many of us regular players can claim that?) It was a real pleasure to see the enjoyment and satisfaction on the faces of these enthusiastic youngsters. Indeed, some girls remained behind after the session to play Golf croquet with Rosie and Alison.

As the Hunters Hill Club has only one full-sized lawn, the girls were transported to the Chatswood Club lawns for the last two sessions. The extra space gave them the opportunity to play singles Golf Croquet and experience a full lawn without too many other players on it.

At the conclusion of this term's sessions, Leonore Glansbeek, Supervising Teacher, said of this more concentrated and testing training, "Through these sessions the Girls are seeing Croquet as a serious sport for people of their age and ability. The manner in which they have honed their skills is truly amazing. We are very grateful to the Hunters Hill Club for its involvement and hope that this activity can continue for many years to come".

As a further incentive to involve these girls in the Sport, the Club has offered a very favourable junior subscription to the class to join and continue their practice. Who knows, this incentive may lead to the development of a future NSW Junior Champion! The Club is very grateful to Rosie and Alison for their excellent support, to the

Chatswood Croquet Club for the loan of equipment and the use of its lawns and to Croquet New South Wales for financial assistance in transporting the girls

The Club has just started 'Twi-Light Evenings' to take its members coolly through the scorching Summer months. Currently, these are held at 4-30p.m. each Tuesday, but the number of evenings can be increased as more people become involved - 'the more the merrier'. Feel free to come along to enjoy some relaxed croquet with your wine and nibbles!

Anyone interested in playing at the Hunters Hill Croquet Club or becoming a member should contact the Secretary, Mr. Eric Fielding-Smith, at [eric.fieldingsmith@gmail.com](mailto:eric.fieldingsmith@gmail.com) or by telephone on 9701 3500

*Peter Warren,  
Club President*

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*...Coutts Crossing contd from p. 18*

Most clubs have a member/AC Player/engineer/carpenter/handyman. Ours is Jim Algie. Having played for under two years he had two milestones in August. First a turn of 10 hoops (off a 20 handicap) and then he produced the cutest trolleys in all NSW.



And the worst of times. You don't want to know about them, but there are two croquet clubs in Coutts Crossing, just make sure you talk to the correct one.

And a wish. It is a long way from Coutts Crossing to most other clubs and we envy the chances that Sydneysiders have to go visiting nearby clubs. We would love to entertain visitors so that we can learn from them. One of our members put forward the idea that those top players who are supported by our affiliation fees should plan between them to visit all the 67 NSW clubs once a year. A top performer, playing for a morning at our club would really create a buzz in our croquet community

Guys, the welcome mat is out; come, show us your brilliance.

**Peter Martin  
Secretary**



### **Manly Croquet Club issues a challenge!**

We think we are the oldest croquet club in NSW and our challenge is to other clubs to dispute our claim!

There are multiple references from the 1860's in the Sydney newspapers to the playing of croquet at Manly. This seems to have been on private lawns. By 1901, there is a club utilising the facilities of the Manly Bowling and Recreation Club and a handicap tournament took place in December of that year. The first President, Mrs T.S. Littlejohn, retired in the following year.

So is there another NSW club that has been going longer than ours?

*David Griffiths,  
President of Manly Croquet Club*

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

### **Taree Club Salutes Jan Sage**

Jan Sage, Captain of Taree Croquet Club, joined the club back in 1994. A committed member of the club she also likes to promote the game by coaching and assists the sport through refereeing. Jan has recently resigned as State Director of Association Croquet Refereeing after holding the position for the past eight years. As one of three level 2 coaches for Association croquet, in NSW, and a level one coaching qualification for Golf croquet Jan is much in demand.

Currently, Jan holds the position of Regional Coaching Director for the MNCCC which covers the clubs of Taree, Forster, Gloucester and Port Macquarie. Jan's coaching was well received by the Gloucester croquet club on an organised "Brushing Up on Rules Day" and at Orange where she held a two day coaching event. Being a retired teacher, Jan took much delight in teaching an eager group of students from Taree Public School in 2008. Jan has also headed several U3A courses since 2011.

At a club level, Jan likes to teach the basic skills to new players before lifting the standards of the more experienced players. Currently, Jan is holding a weekly coaching session for Association croquet players on Tuesday mornings from 9.00 am. In 1998 Jan passed her Umpires exam and became an official referee in 1999.

Jan's first position as tournament referee was in a competition at the Forster Winter Carnival in 2002. Since then she has refereed in many competitions including the Australian Golf Croquet championship in 2007, the Women's World Golf Croquet Championship in 2009 and her ultimate claim to fame was being selected as one of only six Australian referees to officiate in the MacRobertson shield in 2006 which is an international event with teams visiting from the USA, New Zealand and the UK.

As a referee she has attended workshops in Maitland, National Park (Newcastle), Toronto and Tempe. In 2007 Jan Sage was appointed to the Laws Helpers Group. As a player, Jan has a barrage of achievements. Jan has won tournaments in Forster eight out of ten years since 1996. Jan has also had success at Urunga, Port Macquarie and Bathurst. Competing in the State Handicap Croquet Championship in 2006, Jan came runner up in her division. In 2007 Jan received a certificate of merit from the Greater Taree City Council for the Australia Day Sports Awards.

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## BATHURST CITY CROQUET CLUB ASSOCIATION CARNIVAL

Croquet was alive and well in Bathurst from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> until Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November when the Bathurst City Croquet Club held its annual Association Croquet Carnival. There were twenty-four entries from twelve clubs (Cammeray, Killara, Manly, Narooma, Milton/Ulladulla, Mosman, EDSAAC, Nowra, Orange, Wollongong, Port Macquarie and Bathurst).

The Carnival was planned and organised by Annette McManus (Tournament Manager) and John Cook (the Referee/Handicapper). They followed the successful format they introduced a couple of years ago where each morning saw Doubles being played first on both lawns at 8am, before players moved on to Singles for the rest of the day. All players played advanced handicap and all games were double banked.

A welcome afternoon and practice session was held on the Sunday afternoon. Players enjoyed the opportunity to test out the newly laid "Evergreen" couch turf lawn. The work on the lawn was completed in February with the "bedding in process" still occurring.

A Presentation BBQ was held on the Friday afternoon, with the Tournament Manager presenting the winners with their prizes.

### RESULTS: DOUBLES

#### **BLOCK A**

**Winners:** Douglas Woods (Wollongong) and Jim Hicks (Port Macquarie)

#### **BLOCK B**

**Winners:** Michael Strickland (Mosman) and Annette McManus (Bathurst)

#### **BLOCK C**

**Winners:** Helen James (Orange) and Bernie Gibson (Manly)

### RESULTS : SINGLES

#### **BLOCK A**

**Winner:** Michael Strickland (Mosman)

Runner-up: Annette Du Preez (Cammeray)

#### **BLOCK B**

**Winner:** Margaret Sawers (Nowra)

Runner-up: Greg Deakin (Killara)

#### **BLOCK C**

**Winner:** Diane Scott (Wollongong)

Runner-up: Denese McCann (Narooma)

#### **BLOCK D**

**Winner:** John Cook (Bathurst)

Runner-up: Helen James (Orange)

The **HIGHEST BREAK AWARD** was presented to Michael Strickland (Mosman)

The **ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD** was presented to Judith Ramage (Nowra)

Presentations were made to thank the Tournament Manager, Annette McManus, and to John Cook, for his

part in organising the Carnival and for being the Tournament Referee and Handicapper. Also acknowledged were some of the other 'behind the scenes' volunteers, without whom the Carnival would not be possible - those who helped with the program, those who worked to make our grounds ready for play each day, those who worked in the kitchen and those who donated items for the raffles and the kitchen. All members of the Bathurst City Croquet Club were actively involved.

Over the 5 days we held daily raffles and we'd like to thank everyone who supported our Club by purchasing tickets. All tickets went back into the barrel for the major raffle drawn on the final afternoon. Douglas Woods from Wollongong Club was the winner of this.

The weather was on our side as the rain occurred mostly overnight except for a sudden storm on Tuesday afternoon. Another heavy downpour occurred on Friday morning which left a small puddling area on the newly laid lawn. This was interesting to watch the ball leave fish tails as they went through this area. It did not cause the balls to deviate but, rather, just to slow. The puddling soon disappeared and players were once again required to adjust their style of play.

The local newspaper, The Western Advocate, and the local television network, WIN 9, both ran articles and news items with the appropriate pictures. These items were very positive stories regarding the carnival. Both organisations gave positive reports and croquet was well promoted and croquet was certainly the winner.

Players had an enjoyable time, renewing friendships and joining in a number of social occasions. Tuesday's play was disrupted with a short break for the Melbourne Cup. The winners of the various sweeps held were very excited. That night saw a group get together for an informal eat out. On Wednesday night twenty six people enjoyed our 'official' carnival dinner which was a banquet at The Terrace Thai Restaurant. The banquet was very well received and the food was of a very high quality. Thursday night a smaller group enjoyed a series of Take Away Meals at the club house. To round off the week the Bathurst Club put on a Thank You BBQ which was run in conjunction with the Presentation of the Awards.

On Friday afternoon The Mayor of Bathurst Regional Council, Councillor Gary Rush, attended and the visiting players and the local club members had a very enjoyable interaction with him. The Bathurst City Croquet Club appreciated his attendance and the support given to the club by the local and state governments.

The play during the week saw several peg outs. Michael Strickland, John Gilhooly, Margaret Sawers, Annette Du Preez and Greg Deakin were some of the players to achieve the feat. Michael Strickland also played an excellent 9, 12, 5 hoop game in which his opponent only hit the croquet balls on 4 occasions. Where there were several unexpected withdrawals from the carnival, some last minute reorganisation took place

.... Contd on p. 22

*Bathurst ...contd from p.21*

The reserves were used. Also a number of the local club players were required to fill the last minute gaps. With the reorganisation, Block D in the Singles was a challenging block for all players as up to 14 bisques per game were available for use. It was pleasing to welcome Barbara Scott from Wollongong to play in our carnival as she was now well enough to play after many years of recuperation following a series of accidents. She has certainly not lost any of her tactical knowledge. It was very disappointing for all the carnival when Barbara had a fall at her accommodation on the Monday night resulting in hospitalisation for at least the remainder of the week. Everyone wishes her a speedy recovery and hopefully Barbara is back playing in the not too distant future.

Results were not known until after the last game on the final day's play in each block. All the blocks were very close and competitive and even though they were tightly contested there was a very friendly atmosphere throughout the entire carnival. The game between Jim Hicks and John Gilhooly on the final day certainly had the spectators on the edge of their seats due to the high level of skill and tactics on display by both players.

Over the week several players saw their handicaps change. Well done to Margaret Sawers (7), Eric Andrews (7), Michael Strickland (4) and John Cook (3.5) in this regard.

We look forward to another Association Croquet Carnival at the same time next year Monday 31 October to Friday 5 November 2016. Remember, if you want to come to our Association Carnival, you need to get in early, as the 2015 carnival was full by the end of December with entries received after that going onto "the reserve list". We already have bookings for the 2016 Association Croquet Carnival!! Hopefully we will see YOU there, too!! It is a fun week of croquet for all.

Thank you to everyone who made our Association Carnival the success that it was and happy croquet playing to all.

*Annette McManus  
Tournament Manage*

## TRANS TASMAN 2015

Best wishes are extended to the Australian GC team to play New Zealand in three Tasman tests in Nelson, New Zealand from 30th November to 5th December 2015.



**Back Row:** John Compton (NSW) (Manager), Fleur Brockway (WA, Reserve), Chris McWhirter (WA), Alison Sharpe (NSW), Kevin Beard (Vic), Lester Hughes (Vic, Reserve)

**Front Row:** John Van der Touw (Vic), Wendy Dickson (Vic), Peter Landrebe (NSW, C), Anne Quinn (Vic, VC), Rosie Landrebe (NSW)

We look forward to hearing the results of their good efforts at the Meeting on 12 December.



**"You've got to be  
Kid-ding:  
\$2 purchase in  
Tower District  
could be worth \$5  
million"**



*Editor: I think many people have seen this photo of Billy the Kid having a go at Croquet but I thought it was worth reproducing here! I found the second one on line as well which gave a bit more background to Billy's game!*

## NOWRA NEWS

### Combined Probus Clubs Converge on Nowra

On Monday, 28 September Probus Clubs from Nowra, South Nowra, Jervis Bay, Shoalhaven Mens and Shoalhaven Ladies clubs joined Nowra club members for a day filled with fun croquet. On a wonderful spring day, some fifty visitors enjoyed the lawns whilst others enjoyed the garden settings of the club. Whilst some waited for games under the guidance of club members other visitors participated in the games provided. Probus provided a barbecue lunch for all to enjoy. This type of event is very popular and is bringing in much needed funds for our project of developing two extra lawns on the northern side of our present lawns.



*Great day for croquet*



*Games for all to enjoy*

### GC Handicap Singles & Doubles, 16—19 October

Nowra club provided players from Forster, Young, Jamberoo, Newcastle, Killara, Wollongong, Orange, Sutherland, Milton/Ulladulla and three members of Nowra with some days of great competition and friendship. Although the competition was scheduled for four days, it was completed within three days. The first day saw heat wave conditions followed by cooler conditions for the remaining days. On picture perfect lawns, all players enjoyed their games, which moved quickly with the co-operation of the tournament manager and players. The results were as follows:

#### SINGLES WINNERS

**Block 1:** **Graham Innocent (Forster)**

R/u: Phil Pickard (Nowra)

**Block 2** **Tony Defriend (Milton/Ulladulla)**

R/u: Lenora Everton (Wollongong)

**Block 3:** **Moya Flynn (Milton/Ulladulla)**

R/U: Sharlene Subi (Jamberoo)

#### Doubles Winners

**Block 1:** **Phil Pickard & Edna Kelly (Forster))**

R/U: Graham Innocent & Diane Cheetham (Newcastle)

**Block 2:** **Helen James (Orange) & Tony Defriend (Milton/Ulladulla)**

R/U: Lenora Evertron & Maureen Greenwood (Milton Ulladulla)

**BLOCK 3: Maureen McCowan & Barbara Murray (Jamberoo)**

R/U: Sharlene Subi & Jeanette Enright (Jamberoo)



*Watching intently—Pat Moroney, Reigh McCoy and Doug Leabeater (both from Young) as Terry Cheetham takes hits turn*



*Diane Bonnitcha (Sutherland) at her first tournament, "jumps yellow for the hoop"*

### Nowra Club Plays at Bunnings

Nowra club had its first Bunnings BBQ as a fund raiser for the future two courts to be established over the next ensuing years. Participating club members formed a good working team relationship which in turn will help in forthcoming team croquet events!! A Christmas hamper raffle was also conducted on the day. In all the public was generous and the day was deemed a success by all involved.



The heart and soul of a BBQ "the cooks" Wayne Worrall, Phil Pickard and Bob Davis

*Bob Williamson*

## Australian Gateball Championship 2015

The Australian Gateball Championship is a biennial event with Wynnum (Queensland) host club this year. Seventeen teams competed in a two block round robin format from 4-6 September with beautiful Queensland weather.

Friday was practice day, workshops, the launch of gateballscores.com and the photo competition. The very informative sessions were delivered by Glen Whitehead, website and gateballscores; Tricia Viera, Gateball and ACA Strategic Plan; David Reid and Greg Whymark, Coaching and Coaching Framework. Joan Pease MP opened the tournament by scoring the ceremonial gate.

Saturday and Sunday were the competition days.

**Block A:** Broadbeach Qld, Canberra Sparkers ACT, Chongqing China, Eildon Qld, Ipswich Snoopy Qld, Jiangsu Kunshan China, NSW Country, Southport Qld and Toowoomba Qld.

Chongqing with 7 wins (77 nett gates) and Jiangsu Kunshan with 7 wins (45 nett gates) proceeded to the semis. Next in place order were Canberra Sparkers and Southport with 5 wins each, Ipswich Snoopys 4 wins, NSW Country 3 wins, Eildon and Broadbeach 2 wins each and Toowoomba 1 win.

**Block B:** Blue Macs Qld, Canberra Mavericks ACT, Glambjets Qld, Kiwis NZ, NSW Coast, Shandong Dongming China, Southern Stars Vic and SA and Taipans Qld.

Proceeding to the semis were Shandong Dongming with 6 wins and Canberra Mavericks with 5 wins. Next were Taipans 5 wins, Blue Macs 4 wins, NSW Coast 3 wins, Glambjets and Southern Stars 2 wins and Kiwis 1 win.



**Semi-final 1:**  
Chongqing (China) knocked out the Australian side, the Canberra Mavericks, in a tight match 12-9.



**Semi-final 2:**  
Shandong Donming 11 defeated Jiangsu Kunshan 8, after taking the lead on their final turn.

The final was played in front of a crowd of 100 with Chongqing defeating Shandong Donming 10-7. Congratulations to Chongqing.



Finally we would like to thank CNSW for the team shirts for the two NSW composite teams. We know we were not "State Teams" but by wearing these shirts all players felt proud of their state. Every player said "thank you". This gesture was a huge step forward for Gateball feeling accepted by CNSW.

Canberra chose to play as a club and were also represented with 2 teams. All four teams played well with one (Canberra Mavericks—Peter Freer, Gilon Smith, Sandra Townley, Hilary White and Captain Brian Johnson) competing in the semis.



The Photo Competition was won by Glenda Gutierrez from Jamberoo who played in the NSW Coast team with her entry "Is that a proposal on the gateball court?"



NSW looks forward to hosting the 2017 Australian Gateball Championships.

*Kerrie Sutherland & Judy Squelch  
Co-Chairs Gateball*