

CROQUET NSW Inc.

# Newsletter

Official Publication of Croquet NSW Inc - ISSN 1035-5766

JUNE 2016

## World Croquet Day

### Newcastle Club

#### Spoilt for Choice

Golf croquet, Association, Ricochet or Gateball? With four lawns we were able to offer a lawn for each form of croquet as part of the World Croquet Day celebrations on 7 May.

After the official hit-off at 11am, play continued throughout the day, so players were able to try them all. With lucky door prizes and a barbeque to conclude the day, members and visitors were thrilled to be part of the World Croquet Day celebrations.



The 11am  
HIT-OFF

### Port Hacking Club

The club's three life members - Kendell and Valda Garling and Walter Gaskell - cut the special celebratory cake.



### Nowra Club

More than fifty members of the public, were shown how to play the game of golf croquet and well as mallet skills. During the day, there was a plant sale, raffle and a sausage sizzle. Toward the end of the day, visitors were also entertained by NuKem a local ukelele group. Some of the visitors indicated their interest in becoming members. As a result of the day, some \$600 was raised for the proposed additional courts, which are required to

meet the ongoing demand by the Shoalhaven Community to participate in the sport of croquet



Bob Williamson

### Toronto Club

We played Association, Golf and Ricochet from 8 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. The Association players showed the golfers how to play their game. We all enjoyed the celebration cake at morning tea time. A great time was had by all. Especially Margaret Newberry who won the Toronto Workers' Club dinner voucher.



### Sydney Club



A combined belated World Croquet Day and Mother's Day was celebrated on May 8th at the Sydney Croquet Club. The committee were delighted to welcome a large number of members who enjoyed a special morning tea and games of golf croquet. It was a colourful morning many members dressing in mufti rather than our club colours of navy and white. It was a great morning, old and new members mixed and got to know each other.

The club's successful membership drive continues to gain momentum.

Ingrid Cohen

....Contd on p.2



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## From the President

In the absence of having a formal procedure in place I thought it would be a good time to inform you all of what your Board has achieved or has planned in its first year since formation.

The make-up of the Board is as follows:

Chair:	Tony McArthur
Secretary:	Steve Thornton
Treasurer:	John Eddes
Director Responsible for AC:	Jim Nicholls
Director Responsible for GC:	Rosie Landrebe
Director Responsible for Gateball:	John Compton
Director Responsible for Ricochet:	Brenda Wild

As you can see each of the Directors has taken on the role of being the contact point on the Board for each of the four different games. We have found that so far this process has worked well in facilitating communication with the Board.

I would like to commend Rosie Landrebe for her work in forming the Communication and Marketing Group who have been working on the Promotion of Croquet in NSW from World Croquet Day and information to local media of our various events.

At the time of writing this report we have already had one weekend of GC Development with another to come on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of May. Congratulations to Peter Landrebe, Rosie Landrebe and Chris Lavina for the comprehensive two-day training course run at Tempe. This process can in my opinion only enhance Croquet in NSW.

Later in the year we plan to have a Croquet Convention/Seminar to assist all clubs in various procedures including from being successful when applying for grants to how to run successful events, and numerous other topics.

We will be making all Board minutes available on the website in the near future.

Keep the participation levels up and I look forward to seeing you on the lawns. I love this game!!!

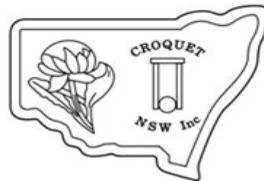
*Tony McArthur*

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### *WCD contd from p 1* **Queanbeyan Club**

We put on an afternoon tea, with tables set up beside the croquet lawn, where some of our expert members gave a demonstration, with commentary, of high-level Association Croquet, while young volunteers kept up the supplies of tea, coffee and food. After eating their fill, some other members and visitors joined in - including the Mayor - for "Fast Croquet" and hoop and peg-shots, and we finished with two games of Golf Croquet.

Members helped by bringing delicious food and lending their best tea-pots, etc, and we had help from the Queanbeyan Bowling Club and from "Beautiful Gifting"



## From the Editor

Thank you to the clubs who have provided interesting articles for this issue of the Newsletter: Ballina, Branxton, Cowra, Dubbo, EDSACC, Forster, Jamberoo, Lithgow, Maitland, Mosman, Myall Park, Strathfield,

Sydney, Taree, Wagga Wagga and Young Clubs for their contributions. Some other clubs have sent in reports of activities to mark World Croquet Day on 7 May—it seems many had a good time celebrating this addition to the Croquet calendar!

Barb Piggott has given us a god report of her week long coaching tour—she must have been exhausted by the time she got home. Neil Hardie has some good advice on Time Wasting in AC games. There is a good response to some criticism of the Quadway Hoops.

Lake Macquarie club had some really good news recently. If only all Councils could be so generous!

We have tried a new section this time with the gathering of profiles of some of the members and two Board Members. The four players are all in the 90's and should be a great inspiration to our younger members to keep going—you are really never too old!

I received a very comprehensive report on the development of Mount Sugarloaf Club. Unfortunately I could only put an extract into these pages but the full report will be on line shortly. Bob Ogilvie has done an excellent job in putting the club's story in place.

Other clubs are welcome to add their stories and if you have a player you would like profiled, see the questions in this issue and go for it. I would love to have them.

Best wishes to all for the second half of this year. Keep on hooping and writing to tell us about it!

*Wendy Fothergill*

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which is one of Queanbeyan's great little shops. And we organized great weather for the afternoon!

*Ruth Blunden*  
*Acting Secretary*

**Croquet NSW** held a Gala Day at Tempe, with a group of visitors from Hurstville Club joining us. Whilst we did not have many visitors, it was the children of diners at the Concordia club who most enjoyed Knocking Dolls about, belting the Bagatelle, trying to make a hoop and pegging out! They delighted in being on the lawns rather than having us shooing them off!

Thank you to Tony McArthur, Gareth Denyer, Peter & Rosie Landrebe, Chris Lavina, Alison Sharpe, Wendy Fothergill and Bill Nelson who all helped on the day.

*Rosie Landrebe*

**WAGGA WAGGA GC CARNIVAL**

Wagga Wagga Croquet Club held its Golf Croquet Carnival commencing Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March until Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Thirty two players from Wollongong, Port Hacking, Mosman, Sutherland, Canberra, Blue Mountains, Deniliquin, Jamberoo, Toronto, Young, Walla Walla and Wagga Wagga competed for \$500 in prize money and all enjoyed the country atmosphere of the Riverina especially the City visitors.

Although it rained on the second day, the weather was extremely pleasant and exciting croquet was played over the four days. Visitors enjoyed the cooler days over the weekend after the heat on Thursday when 6 games needed to be played by each player.

Doubles was tied with Peter Freer (Canberra) and Merwyn Newton (Walla Walla) and Doug Leabeater (Young) and Gail Siccardi (Blue Mountains) sharing the prize money. Wagga's very own Peter Lloyd survived a very close game to claim victory against Pat Moroney from Jamberoo in the final of the singles. Peter played very well throughout the Carnival and is to be congratulated on his success especially as Peter generally plays another form of croquet – Association.

Tournament Referee Peter Freer held a very informative rules session on the Wednesday before the Carnival, making sure all participants kept up to date with all rules during the four days.



*Peter Lloyd being carefully watched by Tournament Referee Peter Freer and Pat Moroney*



*Peter receiving his cheque from Robyn Willis*



*Doubles Winners Doug Leabeater (Young), Gail Siccardi (Blue Mountains), Merwyn Newton (Walla Walla) and Peter Freer (Canberra)*

*Robyn Willis*

**RICOCHET HITS MYALL PARK**

Ricochet, a Croquet game played by many clubs in Queensland and Victoria came to Myall Park Croquet Club on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> of February, when we welcomed Margaret Thompson, one of the few qualified NSW Ricochet croquet and sports coaches from Nelson Bay. Margaret explained the basic rules and with demonstration gave seventeen very interested club members a chance to play the game, which is very different from the ever popular Golf Croquet.

After nearly three hours we all enjoyed a no fuss BBQ, a great day was had by all. Ricochet requires tactical and strategic thinking, which challenges the mind, together with easy walking exercise and mild physical effort.

We thank Margaret very much for her time, patience and effort to have come to our club. We have now begun to play Ricochet on Friday mornings with an ever growing number of members coming along.

*A number of interested members listening intently to Margaret Thompson*



*Connie Hewett*



**WCD At Tempe**



*Pete Landrebe watches the Bagatelle players intently*



*Alison gets hints on hooping from a visiting fairy!*

## THE MOSMAN BENDIGO BASH

On 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of March Mosman held the fifth Bendigo Bank Bash, the Club's open singles AC tournament. 24 players in four blocks battled for the substantial prizes for each block. Generous sponsorship from the Bendigo Community Bank Mosman enabled winners to walk away with \$150 while the runners-up got \$50. All enjoyed the great inclusive meals and refreshments during the tournament.

Blocks were seeded by similar handicaps. In the Blue Block Mosman's Michael Strickland cleaned up winning 4 matches and dropping to a handicap of 4. There was a three way tie on wins for second place, with regular Bash money winner Bob Green getting home on points.

In the Red Block Steve Smith from Cammeray could not be stopped. He won all five games only failing to peg out in one. Platinum is not far off for Steve as his handicap drops to 5. His club compatriots, Annette du Preez and Barbara McDonald, had a last round battle for second, which Annette won.

The Green block was a very even contest with four players ending with three wins. The block was eventually won by David McGrane from Mosman playing in his first open tournament. Cammeray members again fought over second place with Graham Maynard pipping Margaret O'Brien by virtue of his winning their mutual match.

Rob Wright from Mosman was another winner by a clean sweep in the Yellow Block. His handicap is now down to 14 and he is not far off advancing in to Silver. David Gibson had a very good tournament to come second, losing only the one match to Rob.

This event is becoming increasingly popular with all the places filled soon after Christmas. So be warned: you are advised to get your entries in for 2017 by the end of the year.

Thank you to all at Mosman who contributed to the success of our tournament. The lawns were in great condition after the recent good growing weather and cuts immediately before and half way through provided excellent lawn speed. Inside the clubhouse the catering girls and guys turned on a succession of scrumptious cakes and a closing gourmet lunch.

Thank you to all the competitors for the way in which they entered into the spirit of the three days. With each player having five 2½-hour games over two days and a half 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



## STRATHFIELD CROQUET CLUB INAUGURAL THOUGHT SPORT CARNIVAL – 'THE EINSTEIN' 4-9 APRIL, 2016.

The inspiration for our AC tournament in 2016 was the centenary of the first printed release of Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity. Players from Manly, Cammeray, Chatswood, Coogee, Killara, Epping and Mosman joined one player from our club to take part. Advanced Handicap, in 3 Blocks (arranged within handicap ranges) accommodated the players within the overall handicap range of 6 -20.

The incessant heat and rain of the previous few months made it impossible for our groundkeeper to cut our lawns as low as we (and he) would have liked, but the players were able to overcome the lawns' heaviness to produce some fine and entertaining croquet. Heather Smallbone managed the draw and the tournament with her usual thoroughness and efficiency. Stephen Howes, Bob Green, Steve Miles and Neil Hardie joined Heather in refereeing the matches and, in the way of so many referees, did so with generosity and great good humour.

**Block A - Winner Matthew Carden (Cammeray)**  
Runner-Up Gerard Barry (Chatswood)



*Matt is seen here receiving his prize from Ian Albertson, Chairman of the Board (Bendigo Community Bank), with Ann Shaddick Cub President, and Jodi McKay, Club Patron*

**Block B - Winner Margaret O'Brien (Cammeray)**  
Runner-Up Bernie Gibson (Manly)

**Block C - Winner Geoff Boyce (Strathfield)**  
Runner-up Ralda Kirton (Mosman)

*Each of the prize winners received a cheque from our sponsor, Homebush Community Bank Branch Bendigo Bank*

Maybe it was some of the words attributed to Einstein which were on view around the lawns which inspired the players to play in a spirit of friendship and respect, as well as fierce competition. Maybe it was because most of them have taken part in our tournament in the past and enjoy coming to play at Strathfield. We hope it's the latter because we'd like to welcome them again in 2017, for our Thought Sport Carnival honouring another great thinker.



*Margaret O'Brien in action*

*Geoff Boyce accepting his prize*



**Susan Howland**  
Club Secretary

## JAMBEROO AC TOURNAMENT

The Annual Jamberoo AC Tournament was conducted this year from March 9<sup>th</sup> till March 12<sup>th</sup>. This was a little earlier than in years past and unfortunately we ran into some exceedingly hot weather. While it meant play at times was a little uncomfortable there were no heat related incidents. The hoops were set much tighter this year, certainly tighter than many were used to and as a result scoring was more difficult. While there were fewer peg-outs the play was much more tactical and positional which many of the players enjoyed.

There were 24 players divided into four groups with the top group playing Advanced rules. The three other groups played Handicap games.

The results were as follows:

### A Group:

**Winner:** Michael Hughes (Cammeray/Jamberoo)

**Runner-up:** Graham Cullen (Nowra)

### B Group:

**Winner:** Val Lloyd (Coogee)

**Runner-up:** Margaret Sayers (Nowra)

### C Group:

**Winner:** Douglas Woods (Wollongong)

**Runner-up:** Edward Lawler (Orange)

### D Group:

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

**Runner-up:** Sandra Colquhoun (Cammeray)

Again, a very successful tournament and thanks must go to Marilyn Benson for her planning and organisation of the event.

### The four Groups



*Stewart Johnson*  
Event Manager



## LITHGOW CROQUET CLUB

### A little club growing in more ways than one!

Lithgow Croquet Club was originally formed back in 1955, but over the many years membership had dwindled to just 8. In the past 18 months our numbers have swelled to 38 regular players – one of those swellings was in the form of a beautiful baby girl for our then President, Cindy Houston. Our most junior (honorary) member just takes precedence over Presidency, so Cindy is now our Vice President.

On Valentine's weekend 2016 we hosted our first ever regional competition (Gateball) with teams from Blue Mountains, Epstars (Epping, Killara, Eastwood Combo), Jamberoo, Canberra, Newcastle and Wagga/Young Combo attending. It was a great success and I'm sure will be on again in 2017. As we only started training in Gateball last November, it is not surprising that we lost every game, one was a tie lost on countback, some others very close. We are proud of our efforts nonetheless, and made the local TV News.



While we mostly play Aussie, Golf Croquet and Gateball we have recently started playing Ricochet, which has proved to be very popular and brings out a more competitive streak in our players. With one of our new members being a retired Association Coach, we will be learning that as well soon!

We are currently in negotiations to host some visiting Chinese Gateball players later this year, and have two special needs groups who attend fortnightly and thoroughly enjoy their games. Every month that has a fifth Saturday we hold a Silly Saturday and play Zig Zag, Hoop and Pooh, Tic Tac Toe and Skittles etc., with prizes for the best performers. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves on World Croquet Day, with the early birds having some fun with mallet writing before play.

Our regular play days are Wednesday and Saturday for Croquet and Monday and Thursday (mostly) for Gateball. If ever any players from anywhere are passing through Lithgow - we'd love you to visit – because at the moment it is All Go in Lithgow.



*Cassandra Hawkins - President*

## LET'S PLAY RICOCHET

A pack of playing cards contains 2 jokers and 4 sets of 13 cards. Using some, or all, of these cards, a variety of games can be played, with different rules for each game.

Similarly, with a croquet lawn, where we have 6 hoops, a centre peg and 4 coloured balls, we can play a variety of games, using many of the same skills but different rules. Most popular in NSW to date are Association Croquet and Golf Croquet. However, Ricochet is growing in popularity in Queensland and now, NSW is beginning to follow suit. Originally designed as a lead-in to Association, Ricochet is now becoming a game in its own right. It has been found that Golf Croquet players are enjoying the challenge of the different strategy, while at the same time, are improving their roqueting skills, thus assisting their success in Golf Croquet.

Margaret-Rose Thompson of Nelson Bay is a qualified Referee, Coach and Examining Referee for Ricochet and is keen to introduce the game to as many clubs as possible. Consequently, we invited her to Jamberoo (on the south coast) to share her enthusiasm.

On Thursday 17 March, members of neighbouring clubs, Bundanoon, Southern Highlands and Wollongong, joined our Jamberoo players to make up a class of twenty-nine. Two experienced players from Nowra, Margaret Sawers and Phil Pickard, came along to play a demonstration game while Margaret-Rose gave a detailed commentary of their actions.

After a morning tea break, it was time for the beginners to take to the lawns with guidance from Margaret-Rose, Phil and Margaret. We soon learned that being able to roquet is an essential qualification to enable us to stay on the lawn!

A BBQ lunch, supplied by the host club, allowed time to recharge the batteries before returning to the lawn for some more challenges.

Many thanks to Margaret-Rose and her two helpers from Nowra for taking the time to visit Jamberoo and introducing us to this croquet variation, with its associated challenges.

Already in the south, there are regular games being played in Milton/Ulladulla and Nowra. Following our introduction to the game, we hope to be playing in Jamberoo, Bundanoon, Exeter and Wollongong, but we will start with 14-point games which will keep the time for a game about the same as a Golf Croquet game. This will also get us ready for the Ricochet Tournament planned for July in Nowra.

The Board of CNSW has indicated there will be a Ricochet Championship later this year, open to players in all areas of the state. We will be ready for the CNSW challenge. How many other clubs will join us?



**Brenda Evans**  
**Golf Croquet Captain**  
**Jamberoo Croquet Club**



### Coaching at Cessnock Croquet Club

Following a visit to Toronto Club last year by several members of the recently formed Cessnock Club I had offered to go to their club for a basic coaching session in golf croquet. I was invited and accepted an invitation to do a session on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May. With my wife Marie



we travelled to Cessnock to be warmly greeted by more than twenty keen players who were nearly all new to the game. A great turn up for a club which is only about two years old. The club is to be congratulated on the progress it has made in such a short time. It has two near full size courts in good condition and is making progress in establishing a third court. In a short time the Club has grown to a membership of more than forty.

After a session on the basics of golf croquet followed by a discussion on rules we were treated to a barbeque and further croquet talk. Also the wine was well received.

Then before leaving we enjoyed a game with the locals.

**Bill Munns**

**TAREE CROQUET CLUB'S WILD FIG  
CARNIVAL  
19-22 April, 2016**

Initially this was Taree's week long Association Croquet Carnival. As entries declined the format was changed to a 3 day AC/GC event. AC entries declined even further and the Wild Fig was conducted this year as a 4 day GC Carnival. Competitors could play 2 days of singles or 2 days of doubles, or both, having 4 games each day. The weather was wonderful - warm and sunny with a slight cool breeze for relief. The carnival atmosphere was relaxed and friendly.

Each morning we announced particularly notable strokes that had been played the previous day - such as a clearing stroke which ricocheted off both opponent balls and ran its hoop; or a 12 metre clearing stroke which sent the opponent ball onto the partner ball which was peeled through its hoop; or hoops 9 and 10 run in the same stroke. All these clever/lucky players received a small award!

Games were kept flowing by Lyn Dimech, who managed to have "the next players" ready at the next court. Referees were from Taree Club, from among the competitors when they had a break, and from Port Macquarie and Forster clubs - croquet friends helping out. Thank you all very much.

Many thanks from the Carnival Committee go to our ground staff who prepared the courts well ahead of such an event, and then set up for play each morning; to the catering staff who kept up a supply of nibbles and tea and coffee, and prepared delicious lunches; to Taree members and friends who generously donated food and the raffle prizes. Special thanks go to Katrina Strick for her wonderful work with publicity and in acquiring vouchers from Charcoal Chicken, Deepsea Delights and Quinny's Pizzas.

On Wednesday evening most of the visitors attended a dinner at the 'Sailo'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.

Also, thanks and congratulations to our amazing Carnival Manager Tom Akre. Well done!

**Doubles Winners:**

- Block G:** **Lyn Reardon and Lorraine Craig**  
from Macquarie City  
Runners-up: Carol Goodman and Sandra Johnson  
from Macquarie City
- Block H:** **Ros and Ron Johnstone from Sutherland**  
Runners-up: Carol Hayes and Bernie McAlary  
from Wollongong

**Singles Winners:**

- Block A:** **Ros Johnstone from Sutherland**  
Runner-up: Bill Munns from Toronto
- Block B:** **Jan Ingham from Macquarie City**  
Runner-up: Ken Easton from Port Macquarie
- Block C:** **Joe Dimech from Taree**  
Runner-up: Carol Goodman from Macquarie City
- Block D:** **Sandra Johnson from Macquarie City**  
Runner-up: Kay Barron from EDSACC



*A bird's (Drone's) eye view of the Courts  
Photo courtesy Peter Coles*



*Block A Singles Winner  
with Jan Sage and Tom Akre*



*Block H Doubles winner & runners-up  
(Two photos taken on Ron J's camera)*



*Waiting patiently and  
watching intently!  
Photo courtesy Janine Crellin*

## Alice and the Queen of Hearts Enjoy an Afternoon at Sydney Croquet Club

In 1865 Lewis Carroll caused much damage to the image of croquet with his depiction of the Queen of Hearts playing croquet using flamingos as mallets and hedgehogs for balls. Sydney Croquet Club decided to correct this wrong impression by organising an Alice and the Queen of Hearts open afternoon, using this as a membership drive.

The club obtained a small community grant from Woollahra Council to fund this themed event. It was an amazing success with many more visitors than the committee had anticipated. The high attendance was due to the active advertising, through emails, invitations to individuals and groups, leaving leaflets on parked cars near the club, displaying them in local businesses and even managing some free advertising in the local paper.

The committee and club members worked tirelessly to ensure everything ran smoothly on the day. Some club members dressed up as the main characters. Alice met and greeted visitors. As the club has two lawns one was set up for golf croquet, supervised by Tweedledum and Tweedledee, the other lawn had several activities for people to try, with the Mad Hatter in charge! Of course the Queen of Hearts was in full control of everyone making sure no one stole her heart shaped jam tarts or the themed props Port Hacking Club kindly allowed the club to use. Chocolate rabbits (white ones were not available!) were given to the winners of the individual games and all the children present.

The weather was sunny and the atmosphere fantastic, everyone had a super afternoon. None of this would have been possible without the hard work of the committee and its members. The results have been outstanding, so far eight new members, plus two former members, have joined us and the club has had a constant stream of visitors so that it has been necessary to arrange two follow up special coaching sessions. The club expects more people to join in the near future. Thanks Lewis Carroll for giving the club the opportunity to prove croquet is a great game!



Ready to greet the visitors are the Queen of Hearts, Tweedle Dun and Alice (aka members Ingrid Cohen, Jack Cohen and Joolie Green)



Ingrid Cohen

## Champions Take Out Maitland's Sweet Pea.

In a great display of talent, *John Levick* and *Alix Verge* combined to form a doubles team which swept to victory in the top block at Maitland's Sweet Pea. Five blocks of six pairs fronted on Friday the 8 April to compete over three days for a total of \$1250 in prize money. Competition was great as players were very keen to do well against a really good field in each block.

EDSAAC was well represented with eager players really enjoying and relishing the competition. Their cheerfulness, learning ability and helpfulness really added a great tone to the event and I look forward to seeing these players develop, as they must, with their attitude and spirit. The weather stayed kind and few disruptions to play took place. A time limit of 1 hour with an option of another quarter of an hour to complete the current hoop or break a tie worked well. If at the end of the one and a quarter hours, the teams were still drawn, the team which had claimed hoop 1 was declared the winner. This saw great attention being placed on that very important hoop, a very positive aspect of all games.

Days one and two had 8 sessions starting at 8:30 am while day three had only 4 sessions after which lunch and the presentation took place. Those of you who have played this event know it is unusual in that two rounds are played, the first under Level Play rules and the second under Handicap Rules. Some interesting results are the norm. Play was organized so that blocks A, B, C and D played all their games on the one lawn and Block E players were spread around to sample all lawns.

**Block E** was fiercely contested and the scorers were kept on their toes checking and double checking with lots of questions to the TM and Refs re technicalities and rules. All in good spirit and all well learnt. Maitland's president, *Lynn Dooley*, who was filling in to assist a single entrant, combined with *Fran Klein*, in her first major event, to place second with six wins (the same as the winning team.) Top of the bunch were husband and wife team of *Penny and Brian Giersch* from EDSAAC, 5 net points ahead of second. The other results in this block demonstrate how close things were with two teams on 5 wins and the other two on 4 wins each. Really great stuff.

**Block D** saw a very decisive win by up and coming stars *Ted Lyng and Chris Williams* who methodically worked their way to first place with 8 wins and 22 net points. Second place was well fought for with three teams on 5 wins. *Jan Ingham and Michael Ascoli* were placed second ahead of *Cheryl Paterson and Hazel Gibbons* 5 net points behind and *Don Rankin and Glenda Yardy* a further 9 points behind.

**Block C** provided the most exciting and interesting results with the first 2 pairs being inseparable using all the usual criteria (= wins (7), = net hoops(8) and a win each against the opponents. What else could we do? A shootout to the centre peg from corner 4 of course.

*Contd on p. 16*

## COWRA CROQUET CLUB FRIENDSHIP DAY

3 May 2016

The Croquet club has been very lucky with the weather for this interclub social occasion for almost as many years as I can remember. I think we have only had to cancel once. Yesterday was no exception to the norm with another beautiful day.

We welcomed twenty-eight guest players from Orange, Young, Hazelbrook and Dubbo and while they refreshed themselves, organised the draw and got people started on the business of the day – Golf Croquet. All the visitors plus our members had a great day putting their skills to the test and hoping, with their partner, for the win. Quite a battle sometimes.

While that group of sixteen players were on the court, the rest could hone their skills a little more with some skill activities. Most of those were designed to improve straight shooting and mallet control as well as different types of shots. Others spent time catching up with friends from other clubs.

At the end of the day we served our usual afternoon tea with lots of tasty homemade goodies. They must have been tasty too as there was hardly anything left afterwards and there seemed too much to start with.

### Golf Croquet winners

1<sup>st</sup> prize – Martin Adkins (Orange)

2<sup>nd</sup> prize – Roslyn Thomas (Hazelbrook)

3<sup>rd</sup> prize – Sally Adkins (Orange)

### Skill games

**Eggs in the basket** – Pat Nowlan (Young)

**Bagatelle** – Bob Maxwell (Hazelbrook)

**Dollies** – Doug Leabeater (Young)

**Ladder** – Pat Nowlan (Young)

**Quoits** – Barry Rose (Cowra)

Our co-presidents Helen Bryant and Zelma Beecher thanked all who came to make the day such a success with a particular mention to all the club members who always put a lot of effort into all the preparations for the day, from flowers on the tables to cleaning up at the end.

Also a special thanks to the Cowra Council Parks and Garden People who always have our courts looking a picture. There were quite a few visitors who commented on the appearance and the fast green



Chris Palazzi

## WASTING TIME IN ASSOCIATION GAMES

Every player has a duty to play at a reasonable speed. There will be times when a player has to think through a strategy, or take time lining up a difficult shot; but swinging the mallet to and fro for half a minute, or gazing around at length when the next shot is obvious should be avoided. Allowances are made for new players who are still learning the basic tactics, but as players gain experience they should be able to speed up their game. Slow play is particularly unfair when a player has a lot of bisques against a better player, and uses up most of the game time with their bisques, so the opponent does not get a fair share of the time.

Law 49 says: *The striker must position the balls and play his strokes with reasonable despatch. The adversary should anticipate as far as possible with which ball he will play next so that he may waste no time in approaching it at the start of his turn. In handicap play, the striker must indicate promptly at the end of his turn whether or not he intends to play a half-bisque or bisque. In doubles play, time must not be wasted in prolonged discussion or instruction.*

The Official Rulings on the Laws of Croquet (ORLC) says: *A nine-hoop break with a leave consists of 70 strokes and can generally be completed in 12 to 25 minutes, giving an average time per stroke of between 10 and 20 seconds. In practice, a referee is unlikely to take action until the average duration rises to 30 seconds per stroke (45 minutes for an all-round break) and should also be influenced by the tactical difficulties and lawn conditions that the striker faces. It may be argued that players differ greatly in their natural rhythms and that croquet is a game intended to be played with care.*

*Nonetheless, if a time-limit is in operation, the adversary is entitled to consideration. It is also worthy of note that some extraordinary accelerations in the pace of play have been seen in apparently slow players when a slender lead has become a deficit. Nonetheless, if the referee agrees that the striker is taking an unjustifiably long time, he is fully entitled to use Law 55 to end the turn at any time. Naturally, the striker should be warned first and have explained to him the basis on which the referee will act. A less radical solution may be found in summarily and publicly awarding extra time.*

If a player takes a long time over one shot, this is not a justification for accusing them of slow play, unless their previous play has also been slow. A player is entitled to take time when there are tactical problems to be sorted out. If a player thinks that their opponent is playing too slowly, the first action is a friendly comment between turns, suggesting that they speed up. Except in extreme circumstances, it is impolite to interrupt a turn to comment on slow play. This would be justified if there was little time left, and the player is behind on hoops. If the friendly comment has no effect, the referee should be called to check the speed of play.

In social games slow play is usually tolerated, as these are often when players work out tactics for more serious games. However, frequent offenders should be warned that this is unacceptable in competitions.

Neil Hardie  
State Director Referees AC

### Autumn GC Doubles Carnival - Dubbo City Croquet Club

Saturday 19th March saw sixteen eager members turn up bright and early to compete in our annual Autumn Club Doubles Competition. The day before, Friday, was windy and rainy, but after a stern talk with the weather gods the sky cleared and Saturday was clear and sunny.

The club has been fortunate to attract a number of new members over the last several months, and it was very pleasing to see that they were not afraid of a challenge. So well done to Charles, Max, Pam, Don, and Pippa for entering the competition.

As usual, the carnival is run in Round Robin style, meaning that each team got to play every other team, making it 7 games each. By around 4 pm, after some great action, we had a batch of exhausted, but never-the-less happy players, satisfied with their efforts.



*The winners of the 2016 Golf Croquet Doubles competition were (from right to left): Elizabeth Allen & Beth Stanley with a perfect 7 wins. The Runners Up, with 5 wins, were Annie Keyte & Tom Barclay.*

### Dubbo City Croquet Club 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday

On Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th September 2016 the club will be celebrating its 95th Birthday. Yes, Dubbo City Croquet Club has been around that long ... and at the same address, since the club started in 1921.

We will be celebrating in style and cordially invite Croquet Friends from near and far to join us in Dubbo to help us celebrate.

Plans are in progress with a **brief outline below, but please visit our website at:**

**<http://dubbocitycroquetclub.blogspot.com.au/>**  
and check out the 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday page for all the latest details.

**Saturday 24th September** - Croquet in 1900 Period Dress with cash prizes for best Period costume (female

and male). Novel croquet related games, also with cash prizes, photo competitions, vintage cars, and High Tea on the lawns, and more.

**Sunday 25th September** we are inviting other NSW Croquet Clubs to challenge Dubbo players in a Round Robin Golf Croquet competition. The Challenge Competition will be a limited event with a maximum of 12 pairs (6 from Dubbo and 6 from other clubs). Depending on interest, elimination games may be played on Friday 23rd. Cash and commemorative prizes will be on offer.

Clubs and members interested in joining with us should reserve the dates now. Let us know your interest by emailing us so we can keep in touch.

*Ben Vang*



### A Bit More from Strathfield

At the conclusion of the Thought Sport Carnival the club had its regular celebratory function, with our special guests in attendance. However, this year our guest list included two people we were delighted could join us for the afternoon. Alfreda Henry (nee Newman) came with her daughter Libby Bush. The club had just that week received from Alfreda, a Jaques Mallet with an accompanying stand. The items according to Alfreda would be nearly 100 years old. Alfreda is a very active octogenarian, and now plays a game called 'snooker croquet' at her retirement village. As SCC club archivist I was privileged to interview Alfreda at her home, and view film footage, of Alfreda playing with this set as a child at 'Tiptree'. The film, now on DVD showed many members of the Vickery/Newman families pursuing leisure activities and family gatherings. These families were considered prominent residents of Strathfield, who owned a number of the grand homes with large gardens (tennis and croquet lawns), which once existed in the centre of Strathfield (examples of heritage homes in the Vickery family included Strathfield House, Tiptree, Lauriston). See a post on the CNSW Community facebook page for a picture of this set.

Close to World Croquet Day, our club catered for our Carnival bank sponsors (Homebush Community Bank Branch, Bendigo Bank) who hosted a Community Forum. This was a wonderful way, to introduce our club to many Strathfield Community Organisations in one hit. Jennifer Mitchell, a SCC member, photographed the event.



*Ruth Bridger*

## **Mount Sugarloaf—The First Seven Years** **Written by Bob Ogilvie, Foundation President**

### **2008 - The First Year**

The seeds of Mount Sugarloaf Croquet Club were planted in early 2008. At that time the West Wallsend Bowling Club was in financial trouble and folded. This circumstance left a vacuum for what use to put the now vacant Bowling Club building and greens.

My wife Christine and I having been for a number of years avid croquet players and members of Toronto Croquet Club, seized on the opportunity to negotiate the future use of the redundant greens and original Bowling Club shed (used for a machinery shed and eventually razed to the ground by fire) with the aim to establish a Croquet Club in West Wallsend.

I approached at that time Lake Macquarie City Council being the owners of the land. I received a favourable response. Subsequently an offer of a lease covering the whole lands including the then vacant Bowling Club House. Due to the size of the Club House and projected maintenance I declined the offer.

To keep the negotiations from stalling I again approached Council seeking to gain permission to only use the greens for a future Croquet Club. Council agreed provided any future lessee of the Bowling Club House agreed to the lawns being used for that purpose.

During the following few months I kept a close eye on the area to ensure that any movement would be quickly noticed. Council eventually granted a lease to the Mercy Community Services (MSC). Upon this advice I immediately contacted the MCS at their main office in Tighes Hill (Newcastle). In response they agreed to my proposal leaving it open for Chris and me to investigate the formation of a Croquet Club.

Following a written agreement with the MCS the challenge was then to form the Club. Advice from Croquet NSW was that any Club to be affiliated with the State body must have a minimum of eight (8) members. Where did I get the members from? It was on our veranda at home where I entertained my neighbours and friends. At one of the "Get to Gethers" I mentioned my aims to form a Croquet Club and the need for eight (8) members. To my surprise and gratitude all volunteered to become foundation members.

Mount Sugarloaf Croquet Club commenced playing at 9.00am on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2008. The inaugural meeting of Foundation Members was held that afternoon on the veranda

Foundation members attending that meeting are as follows. Peter & Denise Fitzpatrick, Ron & Fay Bell, Sandra Jones, Beverly Rendal, Maureen Dale, Bob & Chris Ogilvie. Gael Rankin apologised

The agenda items included the election of the Committee:

<b>President</b>	<b>Bob Ogilvie</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Peter Fitzpatrick</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Maureen Dale</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ron Bell</b>

The next item on the agenda was the naming of the Club. After considering a number of names being suggested

(West Wallsend, Sugar Valley, and Mount Sugarloaf) resulted in Mount Sugarloaf being adopted.

Club colours were then considered keeping in mind the colours of other Clubs within the District. Our colours of "Bottle Green tops with Cream/White slacks/shorts" were adopted.

The recognised Official Open Day was held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2008 to coincide with the opening of the MCS regional office (now completed renovation of the original Bowling Club building). A very successful day with thirty four (34) players from all over the District attending.



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> November Bob Ogilvie was appointed as the "Public Officer "in accordance with the requirements of the Office of Fair Trading" - a position I still hold to date. A "Statement of Objectives" was adopted, being as follows

**Provide an alternate sport within the District;**  
**To provide the opportunity for seniors residing in the district to participate in a sport suitable to their age group;**  
**To allocate playing days including weekends to allow all age groups whether in the workforce or retired to participate on a regular basis;**  
**To provide the opportunity for school children to gain a knowledge of the game of Croquet.**

Incorporation was granted by the "Office of Fair Trading" leading to the adoption of the "Model Rules for Incorporated Associations" upon which our Constitution has been based.

With all these procedural matters dealt with, the newly formed Mount Sugarloaf Croquet Club Inc needed to put their efforts into the beg, borrow or purchase of the necessary equipment (mallets, hoops, balls etc). The Club was very appreciative of the assistance of Croquet Clubs from the district and beyond. Hoops were manufactured by my brother-in-law, balls were loaned by National Park Croquet Club. Members purchased their individual mallets and a set of hoops was donated by Taree Club.

To assist our finances during this time we were very appreciative of the donation of money from the West Wallsend Workers Club, Croquet NSW and Macquarie City Croquet Club.



*Regretfully, this is all that can fit here, the rest will be on Croquet NSW's website—well worth reading!*

## YOUNG CROQUET NEWS

Once again Young Croquet Club held a very successful autumn golf croquet carnival, with players coming from Wollongong, Albury, Forster, Manly, Orange, Cobram, Yarrowonga, Canberra, Sutherland, Jamberoo, Deniliquin, Toronto, Blue Mountains, and Lismore.

The carnival kicked off on the Thursday, with weather conditions turning very hot. The hiring of a large industrial air cooler was very much appreciated by players coming off the courts to cool down. Friday turned out to be a different day with play changing from croquet to water polo after some rather heavy rain, the courts eventually dried out with play getting back to normal by mid-afternoon, the remaining two days returned to normal warm humid weather.

The usual carnival dinner was held at the Blue Still Distillery on the Friday night, an enjoyable evening was had by all. There were a few trivia questions to entertain everyone between croquet talk. As the evening wore on the croquet shots got better, by the end of the evening you would have thought we had played the world championships.

Play was spread over four days with doubles in the morning and singles in the afternoon. At the end of play on Sunday morning a nice b.b.q, lunch was enjoyed by all, with the presentation of trophies following.

Results are as follows.

### DOUBLES WINNERS

**Blue Block:** M. Mathews & J. Friend  
Runners-up: B. Munns & D. Leabeater

**Red Block:** J. Vaughan & H. James  
Runners-up: F. Littman & M. Trevenar

**Green Block:** L. Friend & J. Howchin  
Runners-up: J. De Giovanni & G. Sicardi

### SINGLES WINNERS

**Blue Block:** P. Maroney  
Runner-up: D. Leabeater

**Red Block:** E. Kelly  
Runner-up: S. Coutts

**Green Block:** M. Munns  
Runner-up: F. Littmann

**Yellow Block:** M. Trevenar  
Runner-up: P. Weimers

**Lavender Block:** K. Fowler  
Runner-up: J. Howchin

**Tan Block:** G. Siccardi  
Runner-up: P. Howarth

*Blue Block Singles*



*Red Block Singles*



Doubles Green Block winners  
J. Howchin & I. Friend



## FORSTER CROQUET CLUB

A very successful, open Golf Croquet Carnival was held at the club from Sunday 20 March until Wednesday 23 March. Forster Club is one of the largest in the state with a membership of 116 and it is fortunate to have four excellent courts to play on.

Players came from all other the state, some of these had represented the State and Australia in Open Competitions. It is a keenly contested event with positions changing daily and with overall winners in each block only known after the last games are played, competitors are kept on tenterhooks until all games are over.

Thanks to all club members who helped on the four days and to the visiting competitors who assisted with refereeing and the President Jan Sullivan and Golf Croquet Captain Mary Greig for organising a great event. Special thanks to Mayor Jan McWilliams for presenting the prizes at the end of play.

### SINGLES RESULTS:

#### **BLOCK A**

**Winner:** Joe Dimech (Taree)  
Runner-up: Brenda Wild (Mt Sugarloaf)

#### **BLOCK B**

**Winner:** Bernie McAlary (Wollongong)  
Runner-up: Shirley Page (Toronto)

#### **BLOCK C**

**Winner:** Geoff Akers (Wollongong)  
Runner-up: Carol Goodman (MCCC)

#### **BLOCK D**

**Winner:** Jan Ingham (Macquarie City)  
Runner-up: Michael Ascol (Macquarie City)

### DOUBLES RESULTS:

#### **BLOCK 1**

**Winner:** Graham Innocent (Young) & Shirley Page (Toronto)

#### **BLOCK 2**

**Winners:** Ros Johnstone (Sutherland) & Jenny Baker (Port Macquarie)

*Helen Cooper  
Secretary*



**TRIATHLON OF CROQUET: GATEBALL,  
GOLF CROQUET AND RICOCHET**

On Sunday 3 April EDSACC Croquet Club hosted the second Triathlon of Croquet. The sky was blue, the lawns beautiful and the atmosphere friendly. Three neighbouring Croquet Clubs: Maitland Croquet Club, Newcastle National Park Croquet Club and EDSACC Croquet Club, competed for the Trophy. The Triathlon was organised by Adolphe Parfait and Kerrie Sutherland.

Each Club presented a team of 6 players with 5 members and one reserve for Team Gateball. The team then split into 3 pairs to play Golf Croquet Doubles (13 point), Ricochet Doubles (1 hour) and Gateball Doubles (30 mins).

The composition of the teams were:

EDSACC: Carol Bennett, Ian McKinnon (captain), Adolphe Parfait (captain), Suzy Parfait, Gail Young and Malcolm Young. Carol and Ian played Ricochet Doubles. Adolphe & Suzy played Gateball Doubles. Malcolm and Gail played Golf Croquet.



**MAITLAND:**

Trevor Black, John Compton (captain), Robyn Compton, Fred Harvey, Peter Smith and John Butler (on loan from EDSACC). Trevor and John Compton played Ricochet Doubles. Peter and John Butler played Gateball. Robyn and Fred played Golf Croquet Doubles.



**NEWCASTLE:** John Edman, Bev Mersmann, Helen Chalmers, John Sutherland, Kerrie Sutherland (captain), Jan Tiedman. Kerrie and Helen played Ricochet Doubles. Bev and John S played Gateball. John E and Jan played Golf Croquet Doubles.

Judy Squelch was the Gateball Referee for all games. Golf Croquet Doubles and Ricochet Doubles were self refereed. Each club played against each other. The following table gives the result for the various matches played.

	Newcastle	Maitland	EDSACC
Gateball Team	2	0	1
Golf Croquet Doubles	1	1	1
Ricochet Doubles	1	1	1
Gateball Doubles	1	2	0
Total Wins	5	4	3
Rank	1	2	3

Newcastle was the overall winner of the Trophy with a total of 5 wins (pictured here receiving the Trophy from Ian)

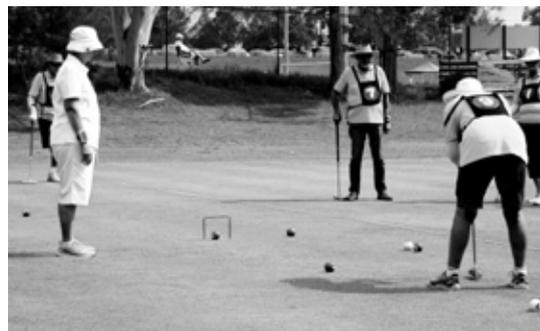


John (National Director of Gateball Australia) and Penny Park dropped in at Lunch Time to watch the second half of the Triathlon and talk about the forthcoming Australian Gateball Championship which will be held at EDSACC in October 2017. The event will draw teams from Queensland, Victoria, China, Japan and NSW.



*Penny & John Park with Judy Squelch*

It was a great day. We all had a wonderful time and renewed our friendship with the neighbouring clubs. Thanks to the players, referees, spectators and helpers who made it a success. Jean Holt did a tremendous job with the catering with lots of yummy slices, cakes and fresh fruits. She was helped by Nalda Gould who took over in the afternoon.



Next year it will be the turn of Maitland to host the Triathlon. Members be adventurous. Come and try the stimulating Gateball game and get ready for the 2017 Gateball Championship and meet some international players.

*Adolphe Parfait*





### AC Bronze Singles 29 February - 4 March

There were ten keen competitors for this event.: Geoff Boyce, Glenda Chaplyn, Susan Eldridge-Smith, Susan Howland, Ralda Kirton, David McGrane, Pamela Saul, Yvonne Webster, David Woods, and Rob Wright, with players divided into two blocks followed by a final. The semi-finalists were David Woods who defeated Rob Wright 15-10, and David McGrane and Glenda Chaplyn, with Glenda the winner 12-8. The final between and David Woods and Glenda was won by David, 18-3



### CNSW Division 2 Doubles

This event was played on the 7/8th March at the impressive Bateau Bay complex better known as EDSACC. Thirteen teams faced the starter, representing nine different clubs, Maitland, Toronto, Sutherland, Wollongong, Sydney, EDSACC, Port Hacking, Mt Sugarloaf, Macquarie City. Play began on Monday in idyllic conditions with all eager to play well. As the temperature rose all players found the going tough but battled on. The top two in each block qualified for Tuesday pm semi-finals. These were Tony McArthur & Sue Booth (Sutherland), Suzy Parfait & John Aldridge (EDSACC), Lynda Toms & Lorraine Hatfield (Port Hacking) and Cheryl Patterson & Hazel Gibbons (EDSACC). Both semis went to the team that placed second in the block, the teams from EDSACC. The final went hoop for hoop until the youngsters Hazel and Cheryl won at the 13th. This win was very popular as the girls had been beaten in the Division 3 Final 2015 at the 13th.

### GC Division 2 Singles, 9th - 11th March 2016

Eighteen players lined up on Wednesday 9th March for the 3 days of singles play, 2 days of block play followed by ¼ finals, ½ finals and best of 3 final on the Friday. The nine clubs represented were Wollongong, Mt Sugarloaf, Toronto, Manly, Port Hacking, EDSACC, Sutherland, Hurstville and Myall Park. Players were placed into two seeded blocks of nine. Unfortunately two players dropped out of Block A after play had commenced day 1, one early in the day and the other at the end of play. The first was due to illness and the other for personal reasons. This considerably weakened Block A with now only 7 players.

However, Bill Kerton playing in his first ever competition and burdened with an initial 6 handicap overcame the odds to place first in Block A. Lorraine Hatfield (Port Hacking) was second, Tony McArthur (Sutherland) third

and Edward Lyng (Toronto) was fourth. Ted was most surprised but ecstatic to know that he was coming back Friday.

Block B was even more competitive with the last match on Thursday determining final positions. Chris Williamson (Toronto) another newcomer to Tournament play topping the block on net hoops from Warwick Hempel (EDSACC). Hardened veteran hooper Bernie McAlary (Wollongong) and a surprised Kevin Parkes (Toronto) rounded out the top four.

The quarter-finals did not follow the script with all favourites beaten. Kevin defeated a sick Bill 7/2, Tony overcame an unwell Warwick 7/2, Lorraine crushed Bernie 7/5 while Ted defeated a nervous Chris.

The semis went to Tony and Ted - note they both came out of the short Block A finishing 3rd and 4th. Tony won the final comfortably 7/2, 7/6 although there were some nervous moments in the second as Ted rallied from 1/5 down to 6/6.

Congratulations to the winners and well done all players over a very hot/humid week. Thankfully EDSACC is beautifully landscaped and the shade trees were much appreciated and not just by the bird life.

Thanks to all referees who made all matches run smoothly, TR Sylvia and all the EDSACC workers some of whom began at 6am to get the lawns pristine, plus the kitchen workers who ensured all players were well fed.



### GC NSW Men's Singles 2—4 April

There were eight starters for this event.: Richard Christian, Peter Freer, David Hanbidge, Steven Harden, John Levick, Tony McArthur, William Munns and teenager Charlie Sharpe.

Semi-final one was between Peter Freer and John Levick, with John Levick successful in the best of three games.

The other semi was between Steven Harden and Charlie Sharpe, with Stephen Harden victorious in two games.

The final between John and Steven saw John emerge as the victor, 5-7, 7-6, 7-5

The Plate play-off between David Hanbidge and Tony McArthur was won by Tony, 7-6.

Richard Christian and Bill Munns played off for third place, with Richard winning 7-6.



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

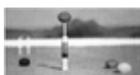
### AC Platinum Singles 16-18 April

Eight players lined up for this event: John Bartrop, Larry Bryant, Gareth Denyer, Robert Elliott, Pam Gentle, Bob Green, David Hanbidge and Neil Hartley.

The Platinum Singles quarter finals were between Bob Green and Neil Hartley (Bob being successful) and Gareth Denyer and Pam Gentle (Pam successful), John Bartrop and Rob Elliott (Rob successful), and Larry Bryant and David Hanbidge (David successful).

In the semis, Bob defeated Pam and Rob defeated David. The final was between Bob and Rob, with Bob winning 22-20.

Pam Gentle finished third in a playoff with David Hanbidge. The Y Finals was won by John Bartrop from Gareth Denyer.

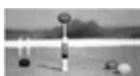


### GC NSW Women's Singles 29 April—1 May

Thirteen entrants came to do battle in this event.: Dianne Bonnitche, Pam Gentle, Lorraine Hatfield, Ros Johnstone, Lisa Kelshaw, Janine McHardy (from WA), Liz Montague, Debra Morgan, Barb Piggott, Lana Sexton, Alison Sharpe, Alix Verge and Brenda Wild.

After the initial round robin, the finalists were Alison Sharpe and Alix Verge, who then played the best of three games to determine the winner.

Alix was victorious 2-7, 7-4, 7-4. Alix had only lost one game during the preliminary rounds and that was to youngster Lana Kelshaw.



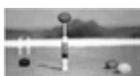
### AC Gold Singles 2-4 May

There were just four entrant for this event: Greg Deakin, Ron Humpherson, Steve Miles and David Stanton.

Play took the form of a double round robin.

Winner: Steve Miles

Runner-up: Ron Humpherson



### Inaugural ACA Under 21 Golf Croquet Championship

Australia's croquet future took a step forward with the playing of the Inaugural ACA Under 21 Golf Croquet Championships from 15-17 January. The event was scheduled to be played at Maitland, however heavy rain made that venue unplayable and Newcastle kindly offered their assistance with a very well drained site. Although competitors were not in overabundance, the standard of play was excellent and bodes well for the future of the sport. Three of the five players had handicaps of 2 but all were extremely capable. (The tournament handicapper

adjusted 2 players upward at the end of the event) Format for play was a round-robin of best of 3 games with no finals. With no time limit, games could have dragged on, however the boys were always keen to attempt hoops so games progressed at a good rate.

*"Oh to have the eyes of an eagle and a lack of fear, just like these guys do"* was a comment heard from a spectator. The play was certainly refreshing and exciting. This did not mean that there were no tactics involved in the general play. Far from it. Excellent decisions were made involving blocking and clearing as well as placement. Lagging to the hoop was excellent.

Five rounds were played with a bye in each.

**Edward Wilson** (Millsbrook CC SA H/C=2) won the event with 4 matches.

**Lachlan Mula** (Deniliquin CC NSW H/C=2) runner-up with 3 matches.

**Kyle Mula** (Deniliquin CC NSW H/C=2) 3rd with 2 matches.

**Charlie Sharpe** (Killara CC NSW H/C=7) 4th with 1 match.

**Jamie Gumbrell** (Canberra CC NSW H/C=9) 5th with no matches.

**Full results on [croquetscores.com](http://croquetscores.com)**

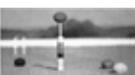
Edward has already played overseas and has his sights set high.

Both Lachlan and Kyle have played in major events and have a number of high ranking scalps on their belts.

Charlie is still balancing school demands and doesn't have a lot of opportunities to play in major comps while Jamie has only been playing for 8 months and has shown remarkable progress for a 15 year old boy.

Those who attended and witnessed the event went home well satisfied that we are at last on our way.

Terry Erickson, from Brisbane, conducted coaching sessions with the players after the event and committed them to the national development team which will provide wonderful training experiences.



### NSW Junior GC Championship

The NSW Junior Golf Croquet Championships will be held at Tempe on July 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Information and entry form has been sent to all clubs. The competition is open to all students undergoing a course of study in 2016 – school, TAFE or university. You just have to be under the age of 21.

By encouraging the younger players we are ensuring the future of croquet in New South Wales. Some clubs are taking classes for local primary and secondary schools and it is my belief that while these students may not take up the sport immediately if they have an enjoyable experience they will be back.

If you have students interested in entering the championships who may need extra coaching please contact me at 0409246294 or [geofmcd@gmail.com](mailto:geofmcd@gmail.com)



## Hoops

In the last year there seems to have been more conversations about hoops than I can remember in my 20 years in the game.

Recently one of the most disappointing comments I heard was that Atkins Quad way hoops were not legal for GC because the uprights were hollow. I was completely amazed at this statement, not the least because it is totally false, but more importantly because it indicates a lack of communication within our sport.

I'm not a hoop expert other than to know the regulations for hoop construction and maybe to have played on most brands/ types of hoops in Australia and overseas, I've even played on some "one off" homemade sets.

I know you can find the requirements for a hoop to be compliant for competition play in a laws book, on the WCF website, or the CNSW website.

**There seems to be a belief that the regulations for GC equipment are different to AC equipment, they are not.**

Any event being held under the auspices of the WCF, ACA, and CNSW all equipment must meet regulations and is tested to ensure it does.

The most recent World GC Championships held in New Zealand in 2015 was played on Quad way hoops, and my understanding is that the GC World Championships being held at Cairnlea in Melbourne in 2017 will also be played on Quad way hoops.

**The uprights of Quad way hoops are made from stainless steel bar, they are not hollow, this can be verified by going to the Atkins Quad way website.**

My club uses Quad ways because they are the easiest to set, there is no need for callipers or tools to squeeze the uprights in, and they are easily adjusted with an allen key to the correct aperture for advanced play or normal regulation play. They are the same aperture all the way to the top, which is great for GC.

They do look different than hoops did when I first started playing, but so do cars, television sets and computers. The innovation in croquet equipment over the years has meant it's easier to put up and take down a court. New mallet designs mean we hit balls with less impact injuries to wrists and backs. New regulations for uniforms mean less time bleaching whites and more time being comfortable on the lawn.

If clubs need information or advice about equipment, please don't hesitate to contact me and I will do my best to help you.

Rosie Landrebe  
rosienews@yahoo.com.au



## Maitland's Sweet Pea contd from p. 8

This saw the dynamic Toronto duo of *Bill and Marie Munns* take the money from Maitland's *Rita Murphy and John Purnell*. Not content with all that the next three placed teams all had 5 wins. Very close competition here.

Not to be out done, **Block B** produced an outright winning team in the form of *Stephen Thornton* (heard of him before?) and *Ron King* with 7 wins but second place was contested by three teams with 5 wins each and another two teams with 4 wins each. *Brenda Wild* and CNSW President *Tony McArthur* took second place, 2 net points ahead of Rob and Mary Greig from Forster and Rod Dillon and Jackie McDonald a further 4 points behind. Everyone was grinning.

How do you feel when you front up to play a pair of stars each on a handicap of 0? Ask all the guys who played in **Block A**. Obviously it didn't phase *Peter and Liz Montague, Trevor Black and Pam Gentle* or *Peter and Elaine Coles* who each took a game from them. This was great. However *John and Alix* played amazingly as usual and won the block with 7 wins. Second place was closely fought again with the teams of *Peter and Elaine Coles* winning 6 games, as did *Peter and Liz Montague*. The Forster based couple took second place with 5 more net hoops than Peter and Liz.



The winning pair

Great thanks go from the organizers to all who assisted with the event, especially those referees who once again took that great step and gave their time to stand and watch and get very tired and sometimes bored, just so we can have a good time. Thanks especially to you.

Peter Smith  
Tournament Manager



Supported by the



## BRANXTON CLUB



In April, Branxton Croquet Club was very happy to organise a special morning tea to celebrate the 90th birthday of Grace Brown of Branxton who has a game with us twice a week. An enormous cake, a 90th birthday balloon and a bear signed by all members were presented to Grace with our best wishes. Members supplied numerous plates of goodies to turn the morning tea into a little party. Once again **HAPPY BIRTHDAY GRACE.**

In other news, the club held its first Novice Competition for high handicappers and for players who had never entered a competition. This competition was won by Patricia Ernst with Carmel Munzenberger runner-up. Well done.

Nine of our players competed in the "Sweet Pea" tournament at Maitland with ten games played over three days. The players in each division were well matched and each win a hard fought battle. Branxton did quite well with a runner-up win in a division.

We have started our Division 3 Pennants with the first game played at Branxton against Maitland; Our Branxton team did very well. Keep up the good work. Our last Pennants game will be on the 16th of this month, with our May Gala Day on the 20th.



*Our team at the 'Sweet Pea' Tournament.*

*From left. Fran Klein, Helen Haines, Lorraine Dillon, Claire Clark, Jacky McDonald, Helen Enright, Maureen Dick, and Rod Dillon*

*Fran Klein*



*The "Young" Winners!*



## LAKE MACQUARIE TO GET NEW CROQUET CENTRE

### *Woo Hoo!*

Lake Macquarie City Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 adopted the Glendale Sec94 Contributions Plan for community facilities and included in the proposals is a top class 6 lawn Croquet Centre with an amenities block, fencing, drainage, watering system, lighting, parking and a large open area for picnics and gazebos.

A small group from both Toronto Croquet Club and Macquarie City Croquet Club were given the opportunity to view the concept plan, make comment and discuss the project. All were impressed with the proposal.

Funding is expected to be in the region of \$2.5 million. The land is located very close to Cockle Creek Railway Station and is serviced by regular bus routes. With on-site parking, there is easy access from the Freeway from Sydney and from both the north and west.

It is anticipated that filling of the site to final levels could take up to 18 months with an expected start of January 2017.

Croquet players from the Lake Macquarie area are excited. **Woo Hoo!**

*Allan Graham  
Vice President Toronto*



## 3 WAY CARNIVAL IN WAGGA WAGGA

The annual 3WAY Carnival was held on Sunday 1 May here in Wagga Wagga. Jill Burmeister kindly played for Wodonga and joked that she should continue doing so, as it brought out her best. Our B team of Nola McRae and Len McCallum also played very well and won all four of their matches. Our A team of Eileen Zurbo and Peter Lloyd were less fortunate but still played well. Wagga ended up one game short of being in the count back that saw Young triumph over Albury. Congratulations to a nervous Dorothy Munro on organizing a great day and thank you to all the helpers



## PLAYER PROFILES

Five of our more senior players (all in their 90's and still active) were asked to respond to a few questions—here are their responses .

### John Purnell (Maitland Club):

#### *Tell us about how you came to play Croquet.*

My wife had recently passed away. I was a stranger to Maitland, having moved from Sydney. My new neighbour said to me – “I play Croquet, John. I'M sure you would like it. I'll get one of the players to set up the hoops and he will give you a run around”.

I nearly fell over laughing, but agreed to her suggestion. I never looked back – Croquet literally saved my life – Good Game – Lovely People – Fresh Air and Sunshine – What more could you want?

#### *Where is your favourite place to play?*

Maitland, naturally. Great lawns and very competitive.

#### *What has been the highlight in your croquet life?*

I think when my friend Rita Murphy and I played in the “Lake Macquarie City Council Masters Games” in 2011. There were no easy victories, but after three gruelling days we were undefeated and won the Gold Medal.

#### *What is your next challenge?*

Well, I turned 90 in February. I'm still active, mentally and physically, I feel the Good Lord is very good to me and my challenge is to keep on playing – and winning – I feel sorry for the friends I beat, after all, who likes to be beaten by a bloke heading for 91!!!

#### *What is your key advice to new players?*

Be competitive, strive to continually improve your game, and, ABOVE ALL, enjoy playing and have fun.

Croquet players are MARVELLOUS PEOPLE,



### Grace Brown (Branxton Club)

#### *Tell us about how you came to play Croquet.*

I started playing croquet in 2008 after having to give up tennis due to a bad shoulder.

#### *Where is your favourite place to play?*

I only play at Branxton where I enjoy the exercise and the friendships I have made at the club.

#### *What is your next challenge?*

My challenge is to get more hoops in a game and make it to 100 still playing croquet.

#### *What is your key advice to new players?*

My advice to new players is : be involved in your club, enjoy the game and make friends.



**Una Beaver, (Ballina Croquet Club)** turned 90 in April 2016, has been playing croquet since 2005. Una walks or catches the bus to the club house each week from her place about 1 kilometre away. She accepts a lift home at the end of the day never wanting to put anyone out though.

#### *Tell us about how you came to play Croquet.*

I had been playing tennis for about twenty years with a group of ladies. My arthritis was making it more difficult

to enjoy the tennis. So about four of us who were playing tennis decided to try croquet. This was in 2005.

#### *Where is your favourite place to play?*

Ballina, my home lawns, is my favourite place to play.

#### *What has been the highlight in your croquet life?*

The highlight of my croquet career is playing competitive croquet. I play golf. I regularly enter the Northern Rivers Croquet Association Golf Tournament. NRCA has on OBE division (over bloody eighty). I have competed in this division. I also compete in the club golf championships – OBE, singles and high/low doubles. I have been successful in all of these competitions. I am currently playing Golf pennants for Ballina in the NRCA pennants.

#### *What is your next challenge?*

My next challenge is the next round of the golf pennants in early June. At the end of this competition I'll see whether I'm up to playing next year.

#### *What is your key advice to new players?*

My advice is to persevere. Don't give the game away. Be ready to learn from the more experienced players.”



### Dympna Sheehy (Ballina Club)

#### *Tell us about how you came to play Croquet.*

I had to give up golf when I turned 80. I moved to Ballina and decided to take up croquet..

#### *Where is your favourite place to play?*

Ballina

#### *What has been the highlight in your croquet life?*

Winning the OBE (over bloody eighty) Ballina championship.

#### *What is your next challenge?*

Keeping on playing croquet

#### *What is your key advice to new players?*

Keep your head down!



## BOARD MEMBERS PROFILES

### Tony McArthur

#### **What brought you to being a member of the Board?**

Having been on the executive of my local club for over 5 years I thought it time to see if I could help at a state level. I also came on the Executive as a result of some prompting from Brenda Wild

#### **What is your Board portfolio and what is your key focus for this for the next 12 months?**

I am currently the Chair of Croquet NSW. My key focus for the next 12 months it to get the new Board working as a well-oiled machine and raise the profile of Croquet in NSW

#### **What is your vision for croquet in NSW and what do you think Clubs and individual members can do to support that?**

As mentioned above I would like to raise the profile of Croquet through a heightened advertising and promotion procedure. We already have a marketing team in place with the Board structure. The Clubs and Individual Members can assist this process by increasing

participation in both CNSW and local events. Together we can make Croquet a less Hidden Sport.

**Tell us a bit about your local club and what you like best about it?**

I am currently proud to be the President of Sutherland Croquet Club and have been on the executive for over 7 years. The thing I like most about our club is how welcoming everyone is to Visitors and New and Prospective Members.



**Jim Nicholls**

**What brought you to being a member of the Board?**

Have gradually had more contact with administration via involvement in the AC Selection committee as well as organising sponsorship of the team shirts.

**What is your Board portfolio and what is your key focus for this for the next 12 months?**

Director responsible for Association Croquet. My key focus is to build on the "improve your game" workshops to further develop the skills at all levels.

**What is your vision for croquet in NSW and what do you think Clubs and individual members can do to support that?**

For CNSW to:

Have a development / coaching program available for all members, regardless of ability;

Actively promote croquet to a wider demographic in the community through both traditional TV radio newspapers and social media;

Secure funding / grants / sponsorship for clubs / players / team development and competition.

All of these simply require enthusiasm. Keep asking members about what they require, liaise with CNSW a time, and schedule it in the club's calendar. Use every opportunity to put articles (news items) forward to local media. If you require assistance with this just ask.

**Tell us a bit about your local club and what you like best about it?**

My home club is Wagga Wagga, of which I have been a member since 2001. Our membership of approx 50 predominately play GC, with some very enthusiastic AC and Gateball players. The best part about Wagga Wagga Club is the friendships. These have developed as we have worked together on having successful school programs (been going ten years), developing facilities, including expanding to three lawns, building of a shelter and equipment shed, and purchasing additional equipment to cater for increase in corporate bookings And, of course, when we are having a hit.



**COACHING UPDATE**

**GC Improve your Game Workshops**

Over 1700 km, 8 days, 7 nights, 6 Clubs and 107 players and the recent GC Improve your Game Workshop road trip came to an end. I was most impressed by the enthusiasm of all players attending the latest round of workshops and although exhausting it is also most rewarding to see players at all standards learning and mastering new skills.

The workshops started in the Sydney area with Eastwood, Sydney and Mosman hosting workshops, but seven different Clubs had members attending these workshops. I then headed west and over the mountain to Clubs I had never visited before with the Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Dubbo all keen to learn and put their new skills to the test.

It was good to take the opportunity to catch up with John Park, National Director of Gate Ball, while travelling and John will be assisting with the rollout of the Gate Ball endorsement of the new ACA coaching structure which came into effect on 1 January.

Any Clubs wishing to host either a GC or AC Workshop should contact me to register their interest.

**Coaching Accreditation**

A number of AC coaches are due for reaccreditation in 2016 and a list of players due can be found on the coaching page of the CNSW website. All previously qualified coaches have to complete the new course when their accreditation becomes due, but can complete the new course whenever they are ready.

Coaches are now required to complete an on-line course called 'Community Coaching General Principles' available on the Australia Sports Commission website before completing a Basic Skills card for any endorsement they are seeking. Anyone wishing to become a coach for the first time or current coaches seeking reaccreditation should download the 'Coaching Application' available on the CNSW website and forward it for processing.

I will be seeking the endorsement of the Australian Croquet Coaching Committee to appoint a number of senior coaches in NSW as Presenter / Assessors and these will take on the role of Regional Coordinators to assist in the rollout of coaching in NSW to limit the amount of travel I am required to undertake.

*The Lithgow Group*



*Photos opposite were taken at Mosman Club and Sydney Club*

**Barb Piggott**  
**SDC CNSW**

16 WOMEN, ONE PASSION,  
80 YEARS STRONG

Throughout 2016 Ballina Croquet is celebrating 80 years continuous existence as a community sporting club.

### Historical Display

The club was established on 13 May 1936 by sixteen women. Historical research to mark the 80 years has unearthed the names of the 16 women who all lived in downtown Ballina. "It was an amazing feeling going through the original minute book (just an ordinary exercise book of the type used by generations of school children) that has been stored under lock and key in the display cupboard at the club house" commented Mary Hughes who has been going through the club's records while researching the history to produce a commemorative historical booklet. As well as producing the commemorative booklet enthusiastic members, in particular Julie O'Brien, Jean Hill and Mary Hughes created an historical display, 16 Women, One Passion, 80 years Strong, based on a flower theme that founding members used at the inauguration of the club.

The display was set up at the Kentwell Community Centre from 7 April to 27 April 2016 and then at the Ballina Public Library for a fortnight. The display at each location was well received getting coverage in the Ballina Advocate, the local newspaper. The display now adorns the club house.

### Common experiences of croquet clubs

Mary Hughes contacted other clubs in the Northern Rivers area so that a brief history of each of them could be included in the display. Each of the clubs, Alstonville, Casino, Lismore and Murwillumbah, had common experiences. All the clubs were founded in the late 1920s or early 1930s despite the Depression. Most were given grants of land by the local council at their start. Enthusiastic and committed members have been vital to their ongoing existence. Members often contributed, at times considerable sums, from their own pockets to pay for work for development of club facilities. Most of the clubs have withstood threats of takeover or encroachment from other sporting clubs. The resourcefulness and steadfastness of members and the support of the wider community has been instrumental in clubs resisting and seeing off these threats.

Sir Phillip Game, the Governor of NSW in the early thirties, famous for being present when the Harbour Bridge ribbon cutting controversy occurred and later for dismissing Jack Lang as Premier, opened a number of the club houses in the early 1930s. The clubs started as "ladies croquet clubs" but all have welcomed men as members since WW11.

### Birthday Celebration – Black Friday a Day of Colour and Celebration

The club celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with a friendship day on the date that the club was founded – 13 May 2016. Black Friday on this occasion was a day of festivities with visitors from Casino, Lismore, Alstonville, Murwillumbah

and Tweed Heads attending. All up 60 plus attendees played golf croquet, side games – obstacle course, knock the dolls over and jump through the hoop. Other novelty events were run the hoop from the boundary and closest to the peg. The splendid birthday cake, adorned with miniature pelican ornaments wielding mallets made by member Mike Russo, was cut by Una Beaver and Ethel Hildebrand both still active members enjoying their 10<sup>th</sup> decade. To top off the day the electoral officer, Ria Keenan, from Tamara Smith's office (the local state member) presented a letter advising of the Ballina Croquet's success in getting a Sport and Recreation grant for our coaching program for new and prospective members.

### Media coverage

The local media has reported the public displays at the Community Centre and the Library. Prime7 news had an informative story on the 16 May news (available on Youtube) focussed on the friendship day celebrations. The story emphasised the attraction of croquet and the resilience of the local clubs. The *Ballina Advocate*, the local weekly paper, gave the celebration front page coverage along with a page 3 story, sporting page photo and brief article and a photo of one member Mike Russo, adorned in a pelican costume to reflect the club's logo, in a general interest section of the paper.

It's been a hectic but memorable start to mark our 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.



*Ballina Croquet members celebrating 80<sup>th</sup> birthday 13 May 2016*

*Original Club House in Cherry Street Ballina*



*Una Beaver and Ethel Hildebrand cut the birthday cake. Una and Ethel are both in their 10<sup>th</sup> decade*

*Photo from the front page of The Ballina Advocate on 18 May:*

*Helen Young, president, Richard Hughes, captain and Ethel Hildebrand, who is in her late eighties and still active in the club, playing the hoop shot.*



*Richard Hughes Captain*