

CROQUET NSW NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021



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WHICH IS THE OLDEST CLUB IN NSW/ACT?

A number of Clubs are having anniversaries this year and the question has been asked, which is the oldest club in NSW/ACT.

Lismore celebrates its 90th birthday this year, and **Hurstville** its 85th Birthday.

Nowra Croquet Club could lay claim as it began in 1922, using disused tennis court at the rear of the Bowling Club. But it seems Kiama and Berry had flourishing croquet clubs at the time, and competitions ensued! Nowra is a thriving Club to this day, while Kiama and Berry are no longer.

Cowra was established in 1923, formed by two Cowra ladies: Miss Elizabeth Bill and Mrs Alford. Croquet was played on the Bowling Green, although looking at the photo it seems a variant of the game we play today!

What about Sydney Clubs? **Mosman** opened in 1924 and has a thriving membership to this day. **Manly** claims to have been established since 1901 in various places in the suburb, which would make it the oldest location, but perhaps not the oldest Club.?

Canberra was founded in 1928, not long after the opening of Parliament House in 1927.

Croquet NSW website has a section for [Club histories](#), so we would love to hear from other clubs, to see if we can get an answer to this question.

1. COWRA CROQUET CLUB 1920'S



2. NOWRA CROQUET CLUB 1922

Croquet NSW acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands of NSW on which we meet and enjoy croquet. We pay our respects to elders past and present and emerging.

BOARD UPDATE

Board members

Chair: [Simon Cook](#)

Treasurer: [Steve Miles](#)

Secretary/Newsletter: [Kate McLoughlin](#)

[Rosie Landrebe](#)

[Rik Mills](#)

Website: croquet-nsw.org

The Board of Croquet NSW has consulted with members to produce a revised, simplified and more appropriate constitution. This revised constitution has been based on the Model Constitution in Schedule 1 of the *Associations Incorporation Regulation 2016*. A series of drafts have been exposed to clubs and their members on three separate occasions with changes being made each time. Member clubs are now invited to vote on the adoption of the new Constitution by an email vote by the Club delegate. If you have not received a ballot paper, contact the Secretary.

The Board has approved a new initiative to invite unaffiliated clubs to join Croquet NSW. Clubs will be sent an invitation to join, which includes a \$500 financial incentive. Members who know of Clubs that could benefit from joining Croquet NSW are invited to contact the Secretary.

The Board has formally adopted the [**Guidelines for the inclusion of trans gender and gender diverse people in sport**](#), as adopted by Croquet Australia. The Guidelines are to assist Croquet NSW and member clubs to comply with their legal obligations under the Sex Discrimination Act, and to maximise the inclusion of transgender and gender diverse people in sport.

Fees for 2021/2 have been set at \$50 per Club member, with no fee per Club. Refer to the information from the Treasurer in this newsletter. The Board noted that membership of Croquet NSW is still the most cost effective in Australia.

Croquet NSW will buy a defibrillator for use at CNSW headquarters in Tempe. We encourage all clubs to have a defibrillator available at their club.

The Board has had a discussion about etiquette on social media, and notes the updated [**Croquet Australia Member Protection Policy**](#), which has specific guidelines about posting on social media sites. More information is contained in the newsletter.

The Board has also approved an update to the ***Tournament Regulations*** specifically related to the Golf Croquet Pennants play. The updated regulations are available on the website.

It's great to see so many Clubs running tournaments this Autumn, and to see so many enjoying playing. Keep on enjoying the game!

Kate McLoughlin, Secretary
secretary@croquet-nsw.org.au



3. LIGHTS AT EDSACC

CNSW AFFILIATION FEES

The CNSW board has simplified the affiliation fee structure for member clubs. Clubs will no longer pay the \$55 club affiliation fee and will not have to process individual new member invoices. Under the new system affiliation fees for 2021/22 will be \$50 per member payable in two \$25 payments, namely

- \$25 payable on the club database as at 30 September 2021
- \$25 payable on the club database as at 31 March 2022

There will be no extra invoice for new members. This means that clubs will only need to make two payments a year for affiliation. Clubs should charge new members \$50 if they join before 1 October as they will be on both the September and March databases. Members who join in the 1 October to 31 March period should pay \$25. Those who join on 1 April or later will have no affiliation fee until 2022/23.

The affiliation fee includes an expected \$33 affiliation fee to Croquet Australia. This leaves \$17 for CNSW but the loss of club affiliation fees and lower new member fees costs about \$2 per member.

CNSW PAYMENTS

The CNSW Treasurer needs your help to make my life easier so I have more time to play croquet. We live in an electronic world and the key to an easy life is good data.

Clubs

With the exception of pennants entry fees, club payments should be in response to an invoice issued by CNSW. Please do not anticipate the invoice as this means twice the work as the invoice has to be produced as a one off item. The payment needs to be processed and then the billing system adjusted to avoid double invoicing.

When you make a payment, please include both your club name and the invoice number. If you are paying over the counter at a bank, please make sure that the bank includes these details in the reference field. Each month CNSW receive several payments without these details. It is usually the same clubs so tracing has become easier but it would be nice to be playing croquet instead.

Most clubs should be operating on a cash accounting system with perhaps a few end of year adjustments. Electronic banking provides the perfect source of all cash transactions and avoids the cost of expensive accounting software.

Players

Player payments are generally for tournament entry fees. Payments need to include the players name and the event code as given on the entry confirmation email. You can check this code by looking at the event schedule on the CNSW website. If you are paying for someone else there is no need to include your name, just the players name as the bank notifies CNSW of the account making the payment.

There is no need to send confirmation of your electronic bank transfer or even over the counter payment. Tournament payment reconciliations are done for each tournament and players will be notified if they have not paid. If a player withdraws from a tournament before the draw is made,

a refund will be paid. This is much easier than transferring to another tournament.



Steve Miles

**CNSW
Treasurer**

FROM OUR NORTHERN CORRESPONDENT

CNSW GC Division 3 championships.

The CNSW championships in Ballina have attracted a large entry. With still ten weeks to go there are already 32 entries for the singles and 16 pairs. There are numerous players in the north procrastinating about entering, as well as a few from nearby Queensland. But will they be disappointed? There must be a limit to the numbers who can pack into Ballina, Lismore and Byron Bay's lawns. It is an indication of how starved the north is of CNSW events. But what next. It is rumoured that soon no further entries will be accepted, so get your entry in now. If entries are closed one wonders when was the last time it happened at a CNSW event. Well done Ballina for marketing it so well.

CNSW Ricochet championships.

The 2021 event is being hosted at Sawtell, who recently ran a very successful club event, singles and doubles, and all 14 point games. It was popular and everyone enjoyed it. Entries so far for the CNSW Singles are 12, and for the doubles 5 pairs. Plenty of more room for anyone to enter.

There are two factors slowing entries. One is that unfortunately nearby the popular Urunga 30th annual AC carnival is the same week. The other factor is that from my canvassing of clubs, members mostly prefer the 14 point games, but the Championships are 26 point games. Personally, I am finding it difficult to decide which to enter.

My prime passion is AC, so Urunga. I also love 14 point Ricochet, but I think, from the entries made so far, I could do well in the State Ricochet singles championship. But I can find no one to partner me in the 26 point doubles, no one I can practice with

wants to play 26 points. Perhaps next year Ricochet could extend its appeal by running a 26 point championship for those who think it must be 26 points, and a separate short course championship for the 14 point devotees. In my reading of the rules of Ricochet, it does not say it is a 26 point game, which may be shortened to 14 points. It says it may be 26 or 14 point.

Ground keeping and climate change.

Enter the Super Sopper. For many clubs the 'rain event' this February and March was a stark reminder that climate changes are for real. For the few clubs that have excellent drainage on their lawns the downpours were not a problem, but for many it meant many days lost to puddles.

Maitland was ready at their "Sweet Pea" GC tournament. They do not have good drainage, but had a solution. One evening the players left with the lawns under water. Next morning play started promptly. How? They had invested in a Super Sopper. It is a simple piece of equipment. A metal drum is wrapped in foam. As the drum is pushed along water is soaked up. As the foam reaches the top it is squeezed into a container held inside the drum. Get to the edge of the lawn and twist a spout to eject that collected water.

Is it hard work? It does need muscular men to push the Sopper. My club ordered a Sopper and it arrived just about the time our lawns had dried out. So was it a good investment? It will be. In future overnight rain, even heavy rain leaving puddles, will not hold up play for more than an hour. We will not lose days in future to heavy rain events. The cost: about \$2,500. Every club without good drainage should plan for this piece of equipment before the next big rain event takes us unawares.

Club funds and Grants.

All clubs will have been financially squeezed this last year. My club takings from green fees are down over \$8,000 on the previous year. What does that mean? Club Treasurers will be pointing out that those grants awarded on a 50:50 basis, may need to wait till next year when funds are built up again.

Making Coaching fun.

At my club there has been a major change in the way members think of coaching sessions. The reason, simply we have made coaching fun. Members no longer play and practice alone. Coaching linked to practice is always a fun competition between several members.

At the same time everyone keeps a book of the drills they practiced, and to see whether they beat their previous efforts. But doing a drill better than everyone else that day gives great satisfaction.

Having a day with a visiting top coach is instructive, but it is your local coach making those lessons fun week after week, that brings real improvement and success. We now have a handful of members who appear to be keener to partake in a fun coaching session, than just to play. And their games are being transformed. Credit is due to our lead coach Simon Cook, who in his spare time is the Chair of CNSW.

Getting new members.

There are many ideas and ways to get new members Most of them are passive. “let’s have a come the try day and see who turns up”, or expect people to respond to an item in the local newspaper. But more success will come from making a little extra effort. In the past at my club we have had excellent recruitment by bringing people in. If we hear of anyone interested, even if it was a friend of a current member, we phoned them and said we would like them to see what fun it was. We made an appointment that on a particular day and at a particular time a club member would pick them up from their home by car, drive them to

croquet, introduce them to the game, a sandwich lunch and drive them home, for free. The take up was over 80%. It was that extra step that brought them along. Why don’t more people turn up at “come and try” days?

Because, for many people it is intimidating to walk into a sports club, full of strangers, and introduce themselves. But our way the ice is broken by chat in the car on the way to croquet. It does help that the Coutts Crossing club car is a white Rolls Royce!

Peter Martin (Coutts Crossing)

LIVE STREAMING OF CROQUET

Croquet Victoria has announced a partnership with sports channel Kayo, who will be live streaming all or part of five croquet events during 2021. The **Victorian GC Bronze Medal** has already been streamed. Other events to be streamed in 2021 will include the

ACA Golf Croquet Open Singles at VCC, 15-16 May;

the Golf Croquet Interstate Shield at Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre, 9 - 12 September;

ACA Association Croquet President's 8s at VCC, 10-11 October;

ACA Association Croquet Open Singles at VCC, 24-25 October.

Croquet Victoria and NSW colleagues Peter Landrebe, Alison Sharpe and Gareth Denyer have contributed to this initiative.

Croquet fans can access Kayo Freebies by downloading the Kayo Sports app or visiting www.kayosports.com.au/freebies and registering for a Freebies account. Kayo Freebies are free, and no credit card details are required to register and start streaming.

You can also go the Croquet Australia Facebook page and link to events coming up <https://www.facebook.com/CroquetAus/> The Press Release is available on the [Croquet Victoria website](#).

CROQUETIQUETTE

with June Dolly Atkins

Answering those pesky croquet etiquette problems!

Dear Miss Dolly Atkins

As I step onto the lawn at my weekly croquet draw, Reginald Roughspin regularly swears and curses whenever he misses a hoop. It's more than I can bear! I have discussed it with my friends, and we have all agreed we will avoid any draws when he is playing. But this is limiting my opportunities to play, which is most upsetting! What should I do?

Mrs Ivy Wright

Dear Mrs Wright,

I am sorry to hear of the unpleasantness you are dealing with. But does Mr Roughspin realise he is upsetting you? I am sure with your decorous manners you may not be giving him a hint of your displeasure.

I always find it is best to find a way to let him know. Is there a trusted Club member that could assist you to have a little chat with him, perhaps over a cup of tea? If he realised the discomfort, he was causing it could well make him more circumspect.

You may even have a Member Protection Information Officer (I think they are called) to advise you and find a support person to ensure you are not all alone. It can be helpful to ask the Club Captain to give a friendly warning about language and behaviour on the lawn to remind all members about the need to be mindful of their responsibility towards their fellow players.

I trust you will be able to continue to play and that Mr Roughshod can modify his behaviour. Remember we are all different in what we think can offend others!

Yours sincerely

Miss Dolly Watkins (OBE)

USING SOCIAL MEDIA

Many Club members post on social media to keep their membership informed of their activities and to share photos and other information. As you would expect the expectation is that anyone posting is clear about who they are representing, and does not breach privacy nor post offensive or inaccurate content.

Croquet NSW has adopted the [Croquet Australia Member Protection Policy](#), which has just been updated to including specific guidelines about appropriate behaviour in social networking forums. (Section 13) It's worth a read, and you may want to highlight the information in your own club.

The updated policy also contains a position statement regarding Gender Identity, and its commitment to fair and inclusive treatment (Section 11).

If you wish to find more information or train Club members to assist in the implementation or application of behaviour issues, [Play by the Rules](#) website is a great resource and has information about training for Member Protection Information Officers or Complaints Officers.



4. INTRODUCING NEW PLAYERS: URUNGA

THREE DAYS OF RICOCHET AT SAWTELL

The wettest summer on record – then three weeks of heavy rain – would Sawtell's three days of RC go ahead – March 26 -to 28? We know that not long after rain our courts are playable. Tuesday 23rd March was decision day. We decided to trust the weather forecast for a fine weekend. And boy are we glad we did. The carnival ran to three picture perfect days.

Entrants from Sutherland, EDSACC, Toronto, Taree, Forster, Coutts Crossing, Ballina Cherry Street and Lismore were all keen for one of the first events of the year. Three blocks of 6 players played a double round robin – level then handicap play. Overall winners were – Block A; David Scott on a countback from Derek Burrows. Block B; Lee Stewart, runner-up Peter Deeth. Block C; Ruth Mulvaney on a countback from Gary Urquhart.

Sawtell is now looking forward to hosting the CNSW Ricochet Doubles and Singles event commencing on 24th June.

Club Captain Michael Hastings presents the winners.

Jenny Arnold



COACH RECERTIFICATION

Coach re-certifying courses will be offered over the next few months at clubs around the state. If you have previously held coach qualifications, and would like to re-certify under the new system, please fill out the [*form attached*](#) and send it to me at pamgentle@bigpond.com I will attempt to arrange a course at a location close to you.

For those who would like to become a coach, please also fill out the form attached. Courses will be run for new coaches separate from the re-certification of existing coaches.

If your club would like to host a course, please contact me at the above email address. Facilities required are clubhouse (table and chairs) and 1 lawn. The course will take 3 to 4 hours.

Courses for **re-certification of existing Golf Croquet coaches** are scheduled at Maitland Croquet Club on Tuesday 11th May at 9am, and Mosman Croquet Club on Monday 24th May at 9am. Courses for **new Golf Croquet coaches** are scheduled at Maitland Croquet Club on Tuesday 11th May at 1pm, and Mosman Croquet Club on Tuesday 24th May at 1pm.

Pam Gentle
Coaching Coordinator, Croquet NSW



TOURNAMENTS COMING UP

NSW Gateball Championships, 21-23 May, Toronto, entries close 14 May.

NSW Open GC Singles, 28-31 May, Tempe, entries close 21 May

AC Platinum Singles (hcap 1-4.5), 7-9 June, Cammeray, entries close 28 May

NSW Ricochet Open Doubles and Singles, 24-28 June, Sawtell, entries close 10 June

NSW AC Women's Open Singles, 18-20 June, Tempe, entries close 11 June.

Check out the [Events](#) tab on the CNSW website.

AUSTRALIAN MASTERS GAMES 9-16 October, Perth

The Australian Masters Games are to be held in Perth, 9 – 16 October, and they include croquet! Registrations are open, so visit their website to register <https://australianmastersgames.com/sports/>

WINNERS ARE GRINNERS

Congratulations to **Alison Sharpe (Killara)** winner, and to runner-up **Gerda Lambeck (Canberra)** in the **NSW GC Women's Open Singles Championship**, 9-11 April, Tempe.

Congratulations to **Peter Landrebe (Cammeray)**, winner of the **NSW AC Men's Open Singles**, 30 April- 2 May, Tempe, from **Tim Murphy (Canberra)**.

Congratulations to **Sandra Colquhoun (Cammeray)** winner of the **NSW AC Bronze Singles** (handicap 14+), 26-29 Apr, Killara, from **David Rush (Killara)**.

Congratulations to **John and Penny Park (Hazelbrook)**, **Victorian Gateball Doubles Champions**.

Check [Croquet Scores](#) for more results

PROMOTING CROQUET FOR YOUR CLUB

Croquet Australia has produced a range of videos and interactive online tools that you can use to attract members to your club.

Launched just before World Croquet Day, the videos will continue to target special events such as Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, May 27. If you go to the Croquet Australia website, you can copy the videos to your own club website or Facebook page. <https://croquet-australia.com.au/news-3/>

The **Find your nearest Club** function is a great way to encourage people to look for their nearest Club, when doing media and promotion, and to assist people to work out where you are.

<https://www.play-croquet.com/>



JOHN AND PENNY PARK, VICTORIAN GATEBALL DOUBLES CHAMPIONS



5. WET WEATHER FUN, AC GOLD MEDAL JAMBEROO