

CROQUET NSW NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021



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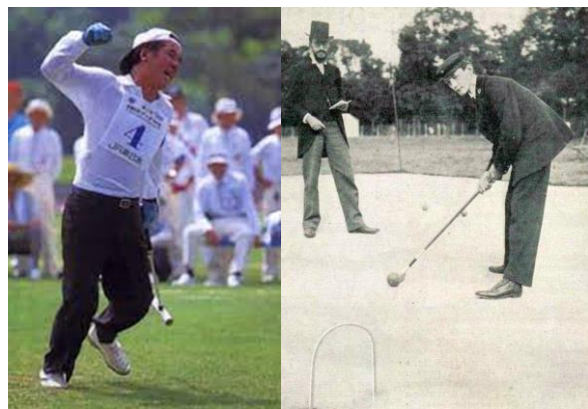
CROQUET AT THE OLYMPICS

With Brisbane winning the right to run the Summer Olympics in Brisbane in 2032, there has been discussion about whether Croquet might get a guernsey. A number of people have commented that croquet has been an Olympic sport in the past.

At the 1900 Paris games, 9 or 10 competitors from France competed, in 3 separate contests: one ball singles, two ball singles and doubles. The competitors including arguably the first two female Olympians: Mme. Filleaul Brohy and Mlle. Marie Ohnier. The one ball event was won by Gaston Aumoitte, Chretien Waydelich won the two ball, and Aumoitte together with George Johin won the doubles.. In fact, Croquet was one of the first Olympic sports
Four years later, in St Louis, the American version of the sport, called roque, was on offer and only Americans took part. ([Wikipedia](#))

Barbara Northcott adds:

‘Just for your information on this topic, Gateball was a demonstration sport at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. I know that there was a real effort to have it again at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo but nothing eventuated. This comes from some of the people that I know within the Tokyo Gateball Community. I am not alone in thinking that should the World Gateball Union and the World Croquet Association joined forces there could be the numbers of players and countries that are needed to press for an entry into the Olympics.’



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

The Board has agreed on an Electronic Media Policy to guide communication online and via Social media. The basics are outlined elsewhere in the news letter, but highlight the importance of communication being about croquet, respectful of others, respect privacy and not be misleading, or injure the reputation of another.

Board members
Chair: vacant
Treasurer: Steve Miles
Secretary/Newsletter: Kate McLoughlin
Projects: Rosie Landrebe
AC Focus: Rik Mills
Website: croquet-nsw.org

The Board was advised that the Australian Croquet Association Golf Croquet Interstate Shield contest programmed for Launceston in September has been cancelled. It is disappointing for those team members selected for the event, and we hope they are able to continue their croquet competition goals in the future.

The Board was sorry to hear from Simon Cook that he is stepping down from the position of Chair prior to the AGM. The Board will be looking to fill the position as part of the election of Office bearers at the AGM, 22 September. Opportunities to be part of the exciting program for Croquet NSW are highlighted elsewhere in the newsletter.

Board members Steve Miles and Kate McLoughlin attended the Australian Croquet Academy half yearly update and the Board will be working with the Academy particularly in the areas of communication, membership growth, education and coaching, funding and promotion. The

Academy is looking at developing a national database to co-ordinate information relating to croquet players.

With many events cancelled or postponed, the Board agreed to a revision of the Tournament Regulations as follows: 'for CNSW Championship events, where 25% or more of players were unable to attend due to Covid 19 lockdown or travel constraints, they should be postponed. For other CNSW events, where they can be held and the Club is able to hold them, they can go ahead.' It remains to be seen how many events can be held at all as lockdowns continue through the State.

Congratulations to the following GC referee appointments: Jacky McDonald and Stephen Howes as Examining Referees, Helen Chalmers as Tutor Referee, Karen Tieck and Simon Fisk as referees. There are currently a further 23 candidates working towards accreditation. And thank you to Stephen Richards who has volunteered to join the AC Selection Committee, and congratulations to Jean Pack who has been added to the AC State squad.

Pam Gentle reported on the continuing accreditation of coaches under the new ACA system. There are 9 Coach Presenters (3 in Canberra, 1 in Sydney, 2 in the Hunter, 1 mid north coast, 1 north coast, plus 1 Gateball). 118 coaches have been accredited across the State: 67 in Golf Croquet, 20 in Ricochet, 15 in Association Croquet and 16 in Gateball. A fabulous job in spreading coaching expertise, and benefitting clubs with access to updated coaching skills and drills.

And the Selection Policy Working Group has finalised the new Selection policy which has been approved by the Board and is available on the website. Thanks to the hard work of

Nerida Taylor, Peter Freer and Peter Landrebe, and to all the input by players into streamlining and clarifying the Selection Policy, to assist the Croquet NSW Selectors to choose the best players for interstate and national events.

So as we head towards the AGM in September, Board members look back on the year with some sense of satisfaction with a number of projects finished and improvements in governance, policy work, and in assisting members to play safely, improve their skills and knowledge of the rules. We have made funds available to assist all Clubs to manage the consequences of the pandemic. We are also aware of the challenges ahead, and the fabulous initiatives in the pipeline, and look forward to next year's program being one of Clubs

growth and focus on building expertise and enabling all players to enjoy more croquet more often! Covid willing!

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



Faults WA style: just a bit of court damage

NEW SELECTION POLICY

Key elements of the revised selection policy :

- Describes the values that underpin all selection processes within the proposed Policy.
- Opens up player access to Development Squads through an EoI process and indicative selection criteria, rather than mandatory criteria.
- Clarifies the roles and responsibilities of different participants in selection processes, and in particular the Board and the Selection Committees.
- Allows a Board Member to be an Observer on Selection Committees.
- Includes the Team Coach as a full, ex-officio member of the Selection Committee
- Focusses on ensuring fair, honest, timely and clear communication between Selectors and aspirant and selected players
- Removes mandatory events from the selection criteria, instead, reinforces the need for players to compete in a range of events thereby providing enough data on form and results in order to be assessed for selection.
- Retains a player's right to appeal a selection decision through existing appeals provisions external to the Selection Policy.

It's available online. Subsequent changes to other policies such as Duties of Officials and Committee Members are underway.

CLUB HISTORIES

Croquet Club histories

A number of Clubs have contacted me with more details about their history. It seems Strathfield Club formally began in 1904 with croquet play going back to the 1880's. Sydney Croquet Club began in the 1920's and had an interesting link with Croquet NSW and the earlier Croquet Players Association. Thanks for your contributions and don't forget to check the Club histories page on the CNSW website.

Strathfield

Croquet was one of the sports played at the Union Recreation Club (now the Strathfield Sports Club) along with tennis, bowls and billiards. The Union Recreation Club opened in 1882.

Strathfield Croquet Club became a separate entity in 1904. The Club moved to our current site at 50 Redmyre Road Strathfield on land provided by Council in 1947.

Peter Hall



Antique croquet set from Jaques of London, donated to Strathfield by Alfreda Henry.

Cheltenham Croquet Club

The Cheltenham Croquet Club is, and always has been a Section in the Cheltenham Recreation Club. In 1912

William Harris offered 4 acres of land for the establishment of a recreation club to promote local sport. On February 7th 1913 the site was vested in trustees appointed by Mr Harris for the promotion of bowls, tennis and croquet.

The club was incorporated in June 1913.

The Inaugural Meeting of the Cheltenham Croquet Committee was on March 9th 1914. The Lawn was opened on November 28th 1914.

Ann Woods

Secretary Cheltenham Croquet Club



Sydney Croquet Club

In 1922, the Rushcutter's Bay Croquet Club formed, with 25 members by 1929. One lawn was leased at Rushcutters Bay Park for £75 pa. Prior to this, George Condon (Founder of the Club & President of Croquet Association of NSW) rented lawns for play. During 1928-29, the Club Secretary began negotiations with Council to rent more lawns, and the first reference to the club's name as "Sydney Croquet Club" appeared at this time. Two lawns were leased from Rushcutters Bay Park for £225 pa.

With forewarnings of significant rent increases at Rushcutters Bay, during 1932-33 approaches were made to Woollahra Council for croquet club facilities in Woollahra Park. The estimated cost for two purpose build lawns there was £750. In 1934 the construction of the Log Cabin clubhouse and the two lawns began. Meantime, the Club continued to lease lawns at Rushcutters Bay Park, and some members used private lawns in Point Piper as well as going to other Clubs to play. Sydney Croquet Club officially began at Woollahra Park with the opening of the new

Log Cabin Clubhouse on 27th April 1935 by Mayor Latimer. Our Rose Bowl Trophy dates from this time. Between 1935 and 1950, Sydney Club won eight A Grade and three B Grade Croquet Association of NSW Pennants.

In 1950, the Croquet Players Association (CPA) was formed. In 1956, Sydney Club's President, Mrs Wall, resigned from the Club to take up a position as President of the Croquet Association of NSW, which moved its headquarters to Sydney Club. This was around the time of a rift between the CPA and Croquet Association of NSW. In 1959, the Croquet Association closed down at Woollahra, and Sydney club became the custodians of the NSW Croquet Association Trophies and equipment after the association was disbanded and closed down following the big dispute in 1957.

In 1962 Sydney Club became a social club only, not affiliated with the CPA. Sydney did not re-affiliate with CPA (now known as Croquet NSW) until 1984. The Club became an Incorporated Association on 7 May 1989.
Max Hooper

NSW SENIORS FESTIVAL GRANTS

Applications to the 2022 NSW Seniors Festival Grants Program are now open and close 11.59pm on Monday 30 August 2021. The Grants Program provides \$200,000 in seed-funding to not-for-profit organisations to run local NSW Seniors Festival events and activities. The program encourage people over 60 to remain active, healthy, engaged and contributing to their local communities.

Visit the [NSW Seniors Festival website](#) to find out more about the program.

Funding categories

Three funding categories are available to distribute \$200,000 across the state:

- Category 1: Up to \$1,000 for small-scale local community events and activities.

- Category 2: \$1,001 – \$5,000 for larger local community events and activities.
- Category 3: \$5,001 - \$10,000 for large scale community and regional events and activities.

Who can apply?

Category 1 and 2 grants are open to all not-for-profit and charitable organisations, public companies limited by guarantee and local government authorities based in NSW. Category 3 funding is available to local government organisations only.

How to apply

Visit the [NSW Seniors Festival website](#) to apply now.

Contact

For more information about the Grants Program, please email NSWSeniorsFestival@fac.nsw.gov.au



Kookaburra making a mallet selection at South West Rocks. Thanks for photo Elizabeth Woods

CROQUET CLUB LOCATOR

Croquet Australia has developed an interactive [Club locator](#) to enable you to find any affiliated Club around Australia. So while we can't travel very far at the moment, we can plan some future fun trips! It's available from the Croquet NSW website on the Clubs page, and the Croquet Australia website under Academy.

VOLUNTEERING FOR CROQUET NSW

There is a wonderful group of people who volunteer to work on Committees, to take on official roles and to take on roles on the Board, which keep Croquet NSW functioning, refereeing, coaching, tournaments running and State competitors competing. We are fortunate in having many volunteers continuing, but there are opportunities on the Tournaments Committee, as Coaching Co-ordinator and Facilities Maintenance (Tempe).

WANTED

- Facilities Maintenance CNSW HQ (Tempe)
- State Coaching Co-ordinator
- Tournaments Committee members
- Selection : GC Committee 1 member

Board members (three people)

We are looking for at least three **Board members** to assist in the management and implementation of the State-wide program. All Board members are elected as Directors, and the roles are agreed following the AGM. **Nominations for Board positions close 17 August.**

Contact a current Board member for more information.

Expressions of interest forms are attached

CURRENT NSW OFFICIALS

Role	Current Officials	Opportunities
Board members (<u>7 members in total needed</u>):	Steve Miles, Kate McLoughlin, Rik Mills, Rosie Landrebe.	Three members
Tournaments Committee	David Stanton (Chair)	Volunteers needed
Selection: AC Committee	Mike Hughes (Chair)	
Selection: GC Committee	Peter Montague (Chair)	One member needed
State Director of Refereeing: GC	Lorraine Hatfield	
State Director of Refereeing: AC	Ted Salter	
State Ricochet Co-ordinator:	Richard Hughes	
State Gateball Co-ordinator:	Judy Tier	
State Director of Coaching:	Pete Landrebe	
State Coaching Co-ordinator:	Pam Gentle	Volunteer welcome
Junior Croquet Co-ordinator	Jacky McDonald	
State Handicapper	<i>Not filled</i>	
Merchandising Officer:	Lisa Kelshaw	
Complaints Officer:	John Bartrop	
Facilities Maintenance, CNSW HQ (Tempe)	vacant	Volunteer needed

FROM OUR NORTHERN CORRESPONDENT

MAX IS BACK: and so is Byron Bay.

The name Max Donati may not be familiar to those who have started playing croquet in recent years, but Max won his first Australian AC championship in 1996. In the last 15 years he has played little and mostly in the north of the State. He is a long-time member of Byron Bay..... but Max never really went away.

However the Byron Bay club went into decline, the lawns were not good and membership tailed off.

Several factors have led to a revival of Byron Bay, most of them centred around Max's enthusiasm for croquet and for his home town. The club was offered part of the hosting of the CNSW Division 3 GC Championships this year. Max approached the Byron Bay council with a plea to bring the lawns to competition standard, and the Council obliged by arranging coring, scarifying and dressing of the lawns. They are now in good condition. With that the membership has grown by 15 in the last six months. Most play GC and some are likely to add Ricochet and AC to their interests soon.

Max greets all new members and introduces them to the basics. His methods can be direct. A recent recruit is Michael Dalton. He spent the morning with Max, Max was impressed. Michael said he liked the sport and would join the club, whereupon Max challenged him. "I will enter you into a tournament in four day's time: you need to learn the strokes and some tactics by then." Michael has all the jauntiness and flair of Max: took up the challenge and days later not only entered, but won his first GC tournament: the Northern Rivers novices event. A month after winning the NRCA Novices, Michael Dalton won the NSW Div 3 GC singles Championship! Incredible, and a testament to Max's coaching abilities. Max is most generous with his time helping

others improve.

Max would be the first to say the revival of Byron Bay has been a team effort, and many of the new recruits have brought much energy and enthusiasm with them. Byron Bay will be hosting the Northern Rivers AC tournament in September. Potential entrants will need no reminder of how attractive a venue this is. You will have the chance to meet Max, actor, musician, snappy dresser, but most of all a charming host.



Max with two of his recent enthusiastic recruits, Dennise Simmons and Heather McCalman

OOPS, I'M OFFSIDE Version 1

A GC player was being coached and at a hoop said "Oops, I am offside, where should I go?" The answer was "Go and sit down and read the rule book." If you find your ball is in an offside position, you do not declare it. It is up to your opponent to notice, to call you out, and to direct you to a penalty area. If your opponent misses noticing, you are fortunate and you play your ball from where it is.

OOPS, I'M OFFSIDE Version 2

An NSW GC player was enjoying a holiday in South Australia recently (during a time when SA was saying "Welcome"). Playing a

game he found himself in an offside position. His opponent did not call it, so he played on. He was then criticized severely by the local Club Captain for a major lapse in etiquette. She pointed out a rule, posted on the clubhouse notice board that if you find yourself in an offside position, you must declare it to your opponent, even if your opponent has not noticed. Apparently, the same rule is applied throughout SA. To not make your declaration offends the manner and etiquette rules of South Australia GC. Manners are important and Manners maketh the Man, but Manners may also loseth the hoop.

FIRST WINS

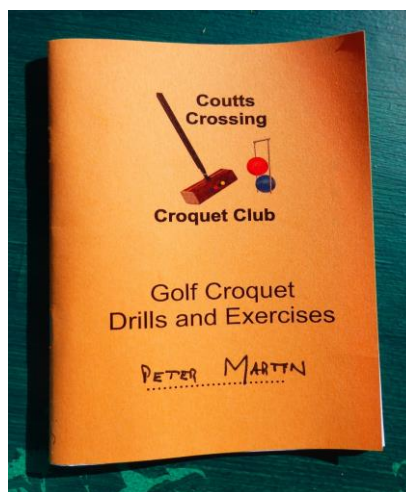
There are 50 CNSW championships up for grabs each year. 26 AC events, 21 GC events, two Ricochet and one Gateball. There are a handful of really strong clubs, with often large membership and long-time experienced coaches, who deservedly win the bulk of the titles, especially the open titles. Some clubs are breaking through and getting a member to the top of the podium. Ballina Cherry Street is a good example of this. Most of the clubs in NSW do not have a star performer who may grab their club a championship, especially a first championship.

So it was with pride that Coutts Crossing produced their first champions in the NSW Ricochet Doubles at Sawtell recently. Peter Deeth and Wayne Gadke came through with a fine victory. Both have played for about six years, neither had contemplated a State Championship. That victory was followed weeks later by the GC Div 3 Doubles championship in Ballina. Again a first time entry to a CNSW event with Jan and Keith Brodie becoming champions. The boost to the club was emphatic.

Now members in all three codes are looking ahead and working out what their target will be next. Wayne and Peter are not the best two Ricochet players in Coutts Crossing, but they had the belief, now others will follow. The GC players are talking and planning. Coutts Crossing will be disappointed if it

does not bring home more championships in the coming year.

For all those clubs who have never had a State Champion, look through the list of tournaments, choose an easy target, match that up with your most enthusiastic member, enter them and give them all the support you can. They will surprise you how well they do.



GC DRILLS BOOKLET

If you are going to improve your game you need to keep records to show how well you are doing. If you try to run a hoop from six feet and manage it six out of ten times, your

target next week should be seven out of ten. With each practice drill keep a record, week to week, practice session to practice session. Keith Brodie at Coutts Crossing, a retired printer, has produced a booklet to help you do this. He has listed all the GC drills in the new coaching manuals, pages by page to make it easy to see your progress. You can compare your booklet to that of your



training partner to see your relative strengths and weaknesses.

Every GC Player in the

Coutts Crossing club has been given a copy. You can do the same for your club. They are available in batches of 20 with your club's name on the front, \$85 including postage and packing. Call the Printer, Color Perfect, direct to order on 6643 1717.

Peter Martin (Coutts Crossing)

MURPHY'S LAWS OF CROQUET

From the [Australian Croquet Online Magazine, Autumn 2021](#)

LAW 1 No matter how bad your last stroke was, the worst is yet to come. This law does not expire at rover hoop (or hoop 13 for Golf Croquet players), since it has the supernatural tendency to extend over the course of the tournament, summer and, eventually, a lifetime.

LAW 2 Your best game of croquet will be followed almost immediately by your worst game ever. The probability of the latter increases with the number of people you tell about the former.

LAW 3 Expensive balls are hoop-magnetic, and vice-versa. Although this cannot be proved in the laboratory, it is a known fact that the more expensive the balls or hoops, the more they are inclined to stick to the other.

LAW 4 Croquet balls never bounce back off the hoop into a hoop-running position. If one does, it is breaking a law of the universe, and should be destroyed.

LAW 5 No matter what causes a croquet player to muff a shot, the partner and all the spectators must solemnly chant "You looked up!" or invoke the wrath of the universe.

LAW 6 The worse a croquet player's handicap, the more qualified he or she deems themselves as an instructor.

A Little Piece of Nonsense" adapted by Creina Dawson to suit the game of Croquet and further adapted by Jim Clement to be relevant to Golf Croquet

CROQUETIQUETTE

with June Dolly Atkins

Answering those pesky croquet etiquette problems!

Dear Miss Watkins

I appreciate your thoughtful approach to behaviour on croquet lawns. I have been playing a year or two, and attended my first Golf croquet competition some months ago (not during the current lockdown of course!) I was somewhat shocked when a player from another game called out when a player was about to strike the red ball: 'Stop! You are playing the wrong ball!' The woman stopped her play and went and played the yellow ball. Surely a player from another game is not able to interfere in the play of a competition? I appreciate your advice.

*Yours in puzzlement
Mr Gough Stickler*

Dear Mr Stickler

Thank you for your letter, and your well observed question. Yes it does seem that interfering in the play of a game would not be wise. And it is not permitted to give tactical advice during a game by the opposition or anyone outside the game. However if a player is about to play the wrong ball, then any player may forestall play so that the correct ball is played. You would expect to be confident of your call before interfering in this way. It is worth having a look at *The Rules of Golf Croquet*, available on the Croquet NSW website to clarify your point (10.1.2 and 14.4). I hope you continue to enjoy your croquet and play in competitions.

Yours in regulations

Miss June Dolly Atkins

TOURNAMENTS NOT COMING UP

Most NSW events have currently been postponed or cancelled.

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

WINNERS ARE GRINNERS

Congratulations to **Jan and Keith Brodie (Coutts Crossing)** winners of the **NSW Division 3 Doubles**, 14 – 15 July (Northern Rivers) from **Deborah Jones and Judy King (Ballina)**

Congratulations to **Michael Dalton (Byron Bay)** winner of the **NSW Division 3 Singles**, 16 – 18 July (Northern Rivers) from **Penny Scott (Ballina Cherry St)**

Well done Port Macquarie and Nowra who have managed to hold competitions, while most comps have been cancelled or postponed.

SOCIAL AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Croquet NSW has adopted an **Electronic Media Policy**, based on the Policy from Croquet Victoria.

Key features:

Public communication by members via media managed by Croquet NSW

- a. should be restricted to croquet-related matters
- b. must not offend, intimidate, humiliate or bully another person
- c. must not be misleading, false or injure the reputation of another person
- d. should respect and maintain the privacy of members
- e. must not bring the sport of croquet into disrepute.

On social media sites managed by Croquet NSW members and staff should:

- a. treat postings, blogs, status updates and tweets as public comment.
- b. ensure that postings (written, photos or videos) are family-friendly.
- c. avoid disclosing personal information about others
- d. ensure they do not make statements that
 - i. are misleading, false or likely to injure a person's reputation.
 - ii. might bring the sport of croquet into disrepute.

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Croquet NSW has adopted the ACA **Adverse Conditions Policy** which gives guidelines for responsibilities and duty of care for the health and safety of in adverse conditions, including heat, cold, storms etc.

USE OF CHEMICALS

The ACA has also developed its **Use of Chemicals Policy**, in response to a motion raised by CNSW at the last AGM. It requires clubs to notify members when they plan to apply chemicals to lawns and grounds etc and to ensure they abide by State legislation regarding the use, storage and application of hazardous chemicals.

All policies are available from the [Governance page](#) of CNSW

