

Port Macquarie Croquet Club

January 2019 Monthly Report from the Committee

The committee would like to wish all members and their families a happy and healthy 2019

- **Christmas Party**

What a wonderful lunch Judy and Ev gave us. It really was a gastronomic delight. Thank you both very much.



Heat Policy

In this extreme weather it is important that members keep well hydrated. The Club Heat Policy is in the Policies folder that sits beside the large filing cabinet.

- **Golf Croquet Club Competitions**

Our club golf croquet competitions will be starting shortly. Watch the noticeboard for entry into these competitions.

The first club event will be the Over 80s competition on Tuesday 26th March.

- **MNCCC (Mid North Coast Croquet Council) Competitions for 2019**

MNCCC competitions allow us to compete and socialise with croquet players from Forster, Gloucester and Taree. The host clubs alternate from year to year.

The competitions now take place in golf croquet, association croquet and ricochet.

If you like to compete, think about being part of one of these teams. Remember that you are not playing for yourself, you are playing for the club.

The first events will be

- a golf croquet competition against Gloucester, at Taree, on Friday 15th March
- a golf croquet competition against Forster, at Forster, on Wednesday 3rd April
- an association croquet competition against Gloucester, at Taree, on Wednesday 10th April.

Expressions of interest in playing sheets will be put on the board shortly. As the Inter-Club competitions are handicap play, players on higher handicaps may have many extra turns.

If you don't already have a golf croquet handicap, see Trevor.

- **Seniors Expo**

On Monday 18th February, during Seniors Week, our club will have a table at Panthers for croquet and displaying Brian Hardy's Koala Komfort cushions. If you are prepared to help for a couple of hours please put your name on the roster on the noticeboard.

- **The New Rules of Golf Croquet**

The new rules of golf croquet were implemented in Australia on 1st January 2019. All carnivals and Inter-Club events will be played under these rules.

At our club, Jim Hicks will run a rules workshop for our club referees at 10.30 a.m. on Monday 21st January. We will gradually introduce these changes to our club members.

- **Plans for lawns – report by John Hincks**

After consultation with the 2 head greenkeepers from Westport, we have been advised that coring and top dressing should not be our first consideration. They suggested that an upgrade of the sprinkler system and the use of the correct weedkiller for Queensland Blue Couch should be our major concerns. It was soon clear that the ideal upgrade of a water tank linked to a pump was beyond our financial capabilities. It was therefore decided to get quotes for servicing the sprinkler heads to ensure complete coverage and the addition of a pump to boost the pressure of the grey water. Watering should be done early in the morning (ie 1.00 am) to ensure optimum pressure and we will trial that system twice a week.

The club has received quotes from Wauchope Co-op; we will be visited by Port Pumps and Mid Coast Irrigation after their Christmas break to complete the quotation process. Work will then proceed as soon as possible.

Selective weedkiller has been received from Queensland and will be trialed outside the lawns for a week or so to gauge the ideal ratios of weedkiller to water for our lawns. We will then apply it to the smaller patches on our lawns. The larger patches will be removed and returfed if the grass has also been killed.

All the hoops on both lawns have mounds partly from the use of moss in the holes. There are also circular indentations in the lawns around each hoop from consistently heavy foot traffic. The plan is to remove the grass cover at all hoops, use it to raise the compressed areas and then replace the grass. This will require some physical assistance with the use of a turfcutter and we are hopeful that this will come from some staff at Westport – Jenny Edmunds and I will be discussing this after the Christmas rush.

Hoops will only be in optimum positions for competition and tournament play. At other times they will be placed a short distance away from those positions probably on a diagonal basis; we hope this will prevent or retard the redevelopment of mounds and hollows.

This process will entail some interruption and disruption in the use of the lawns. We will keep this to the minimum but members should expect some inconvenience.

- ***Vale Peter Nunn***

Bridget Earle
(Secretary)