



**Port Macquarie Croquet Club**  
www.portmacquarietroquet.com.au



## November 2023 Monthly Report from the Committee

### • President's Message



Our 70<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary celebrations were a huge success. Thank you again members for all your help and attendance. It was a great party!

Club and district competitions for the year are almost over. Christmas is fast approaching. Please see arrangements for our club Christmas party in this newsletter.

Thank you to the members who come up with suggestions that might enhance the progress of our club. They are most welcome. Let me share a couple of those with you.

### **Fund Raising**

- “Come and try” days
- Business/corporate fun days – where club members facilitate novelty games, cost per player and additional cost for use of clubhouse facilities. We could especially keep this in mind for Christmas 2024 or before.

I would love there to be a fund-raising sub-committee of the club where interested people with ideas could meet occasionally to discuss possibilities. Any suggestions could be brought to the committee. The mystery auction at our birthday anniversary was a great example of this, the initiative of one of our members. Just think what a few creative, innovative minds together could generate. Think about this for next year. Let me know if you are interested.

### **Grants**

There are grants out there to apply for. See Leslie Williams latest update on NSW government grants and grant opportunities on sports and recreation. I am sure there are club members who, if they haven't the skills themselves, know of someone who could help the club in applying for grants. Karen Faichney for The Westport Club is willing to help with this. If there is money to be had it would be such a shame for our club to miss out. Please think about projects that would benefit our club and about someone with the skills to apply for a grant.



“We're all in this together.”

Regards

Jill

# 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

On 27 October 1953 the Port Macquarie Croquet Club was officially opened on the Buller Street site. During the previous 2 years croquet had been played behind the current Westpac Bank.



70 years later, and after two days of soaking rain, the sun broke through the clouds and members, friends and families anticipated a great afternoon.

Our President, Jill Drury, acknowledged Country and welcomed everyone—about 70 in all. We then formed teams—koalas, kangaroos, wombats, platypus and horses—to compete in five fun activities. The tunnel, the ladder, top shot, corner lotto and rush and roll were keenly contested, but the wombats came away with a convincing win.



Julie Bullivant was very successful in getting donations and vouchers from various Port Macquarie businesses. With great flair Stewart Sinclair conducted an auction for these and also for a Mystery Box. The auction was very well supported.

A barbecue was very welcome after these activities. A birthday cake was formed with iced cupcakes in the shape of 70. The candles were blown out by our oldest member, Janet Fischer, and longest serving member, John Watson.

It was a very happy, successful afternoon, inspired and organised by Jill. Members gave great support to her vision.

***Thank you everyone***





- **Success at Forster**

Ten of our members participated in the Forster GC Doubles Challenge. There were two balanced blocks of 12 pairs, with players playing 11 games of untimed Advantage GC Handicap play over 3 days. Chris Cox and Kay Craig won their block. Jill and Eric Drury and Tracey and Tony Croft both came third. In the play-off between the two block winning pairs Chris and Kay were victorious. Such a great effort by our players!



- **Mid North Coast Croquet Council (MNCCC) District Championships Golf Croquet at Port Macquarie on Sunday 15 October**



28 players from Forster, Gloucester, Port Macquarie and Taree competed in this event. Teams from each club played 3 Singles and 3 Doubles games in each division (only Forster and Port Macquarie were able to form a team in Division 1). The results in this level play event were:

**Division 1** – Forster

**Division 2** – Port Macquarie: Chris Cox, Tony Croft and Tony Earle

**Division 3** – Forster.



- **Club competitions**

- Golf Croquet Results**



- **Advantage Handicap Doubles**

10 pairs played in a round robin. Handicaps ranged from 4 to 14 - it was a challenge for the low handicappers. Jill and Eric Drury and Chris Cox and Marg Mackie both won 3 games and had the same net score. In the head-to-head game Jill and Eric were victorious – congratulations Jill and Eric.

Thank you John Hincks and Trevor Thornton for refereeing, Pam Wiemers for recording and scoring, and Tony Croft for organising the competition.

- **Club competitions and events in November**

- Golf croquet**

- **Open Championship** on Friday 17 and Tuesday 21 November (if necessary).

The closing date for this Championship is Friday 10 November.

- Association Croquet**

- **Kelsall Shield** (PM v Urunga) on Wednesday 8 November
    - The Handicap Singles competition for 2024 will start soon.

- Ricochet**

- The Division 3 round robin competition will start soon.

- **Ricochet and Association Croquet**

People interested in learning the above codes will be referred to appropriate coaches, helpers and mentors of these games.

- **Ricochet:** Pam Weimers, Bridget Earle
    - **Association:** John Hincks, Bridget Earle, Sue Moss, Tim Woolford-Smith.

- **Golf Croquet Coaching with Pam Wiemers**

Pam will run another coaching clinic, covering the very important skills needed to improve your game. The three sessions will be held on Court 3 from 9:00am to 11:00am on Mondays 30 October, 6 and 13 November. Please write your name on the sheet on the noticeboard if you would like to attend.

- **Grounds team report**

The grounds crew has been very busy with routine grooming, line marking and moving of hoops. A few repairs to damaged items, caused mostly by the wild weather have been carried out.

- The roof of the large shelter shed had been ripped off by the wind - it has been repaired.
- The roof of the shelter shed on court 1 has had its roof made secure.
- The lid of the pump box has been repaired and made secure.

The steel cappings on the 7 shade shelters are inadequate for the severe weather we experience. A quote has been received from the original manufacturer, Shadex Industries, for new cappings.



- **Club Christmas Party – Sunday 3 December**

The novelty activities and lunch will be free. It will again be for members only. The committee appreciates the support given to our activities and croquet competitions by so many of you.

A notice will be put up on the board shortly. We will need the numbers for catering by Friday 24 November.



- **Hydration**

During the warmer weather it is **very important** to keep well hydrated. It is good to see most members with their own water bottle. A hat and sunscreen are also advisable. A wet towel around the neck or neck-tie can help to keep you cool

The Club does have a heat policy that you can find on the club website under Policies.

- **Club Booking System - Top-up facility**

Don't forget to use the Top-Up facility after you have transferred or deposited money for green fees into the club's bank account. Thank you all for keeping abreast of the changes.

- **Please register to play whenever you go to the lawns**

This is essential for insurance purposes. If only one person is registered on a lawn for a session this is interpreted as practice and there is no lawn fee.

- **Committee Minutes**

The minutes of meetings are kept in a folder in the third drawer of the filing cabinet. They may be read in the clubhouse.

- If you have any concerns or suggestions please put them **in writing to the: President (president@portmacquariecroquet.com.au) and Secretary (secretary@portmacquariecroquet.com.au)**. These will then be taken to the next committee meeting.

- **Purchasing Croquet Socks**

John Hincks has ordered the socks. He will contact you when they arrive. You will then pay him \$9 per pair.

- **The Westport Club**

- **Storm Damage**

The recent gale-force winds dislodged the roof of the large shelter shed on Court 2. Fortunately no-one was hurt and there was minimal damage.

The maintenance crew of The Westport Club have repaired the shelter for the cost of materials. This is another example of the generosity of our neighbours.



Bridget Earle (Secretary)



4 eggs – so soon after the last hatching