



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



THE WESTPORT CLUB

## June 2024 Report from the Committee

### February Forum Update



A very successful forum was held in February this year. Approximately 70 people were present. Brainstorming sessions for ideas to enhance the club were conducted. Eighty-six ideas were forthcoming. Approximately forty-two people volunteered to be part of 6 working groups. Except for the catering group, the other groups have met, studied ideas put forward, selected a coordinator for their group and have become very active. The working groups are:

**SOFUN** (fund raising, new member drive, promotion/publicity, social activities) – 8 members, coordinator Donna Sinclair

**Grants** - 6 members, coordinator Pam Wiemers

**Grounds Maintenance** - 10 members, coordinator Eric Drury

**Purchase of Supplies** - 3 members, coordinator Dawn Lane

**Welfare** - 5 members, coordinator Judith Wallis

**Catering** – 10 members, coordinator Jill Drury. I will be contacting members of the catering group once our association and golf carnivals are here.

The committee developed a set of 'working group guidelines'. Basically, all working groups must seek approval from the committee before putting any planned action into place. The SOFUN, Grants, Ground Maintenance, and Welfare working group submit a monthly report to the committee. Coordinators are also asked to submit a report to the annual general meeting in July.

The SOFUN working group has introduced 2 simple fund-raising ideas, 'hit the peg' and 'lucky numbers.' These 2 activities have brought interest to the members and so far, they have raised \$25 from 'hit the peg' and \$200 from 'lucky numbers.' The SOFUN group was responsible for the club's recent Facebook page. The group plans a Winter Solstice croquet afternoon on Saturday 22 June, commencing at 12.30 with a free sausage sizzle. A family and friends Fun Day is scheduled on Sunday October 13 from 11.am. Future projects include a market day with 'Come & Try' activities in conjunction with the Foreshore market day, school groups and corporate days.

The Grounds Maintenance working group meet each Thursday morning. Included in its regular activities are line marking, hoop moving and weeding. This group has also been responsible for organising the removal of 2 banksia trees as requested by the committee. One of the 86 ideas from the forum was to improve the Buller Street Garden area. This group has been active in preparing and submitting a draft plan and costings for this project. Another recent improvement by members has been the replacement and painting of the skip boards on the western side of court 1.

The Grants working group has recorded a register of possible grants. This enables them to inform the committee of any grant possibilities. The group has also provided guidelines for submitting a grant. Having studied the recommended plan and costings from the Grounds Maintenance working group for the Buller Street Garden, the Grants group has prepared a submission for a grant that will be emailed to Bunnings once approved by the committee. The Grants working group plans to next look at the possibilities of a grant for the painting and repairs to the club house, another idea coming from the forum.

The Purchase of Supplies working group is constantly active. We must not take for granted how this group serves the club.

The Welfare working group, like the Purchase of Supplies group works behind the scenes. We are grateful that they on the club's behalf care for our members who are not well or doing it tough.

As I look back over the brainstorming ideas put forward at the forum, I am aware that we have also addressed ideas such as U3A lessons, continuity of GC draws, flexibility for session tea breaks, rules review sessions and clinics for improving skills. Encouragement of people passing by the courts was yet another idea from the forum. Currently we are creating an information brochure for interested passersby, family and friends.

I know not all the ideas from the forum have materialised, yet as I look back many already have and will be in the future. Thank you to all club members for your contributions.

If you would like to be a member of any of these committed groups, please contact the coordinator or myself. You would be most welcome.

Jill

- **Scheduled fees for 2024-2025**

These fees, recommended by the committee, were ratified at the May Special General Meeting:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Annual fee        | \$200                                  |
| Green fee         | \$8                                    |
| Visitor green fee | \$10                                   |
| Practice          | no fee – voluntary gold coin donation. |

The Treasurer asks for the annual membership fees to be paid by 1 July 2024.

***If you will not be renewing your membership, please advise the Treasurer, Pam Wiemers, by SMS on 0403 412 284 or email at [treasurer@portmacquariercroquet.com.au](mailto:treasurer@portmacquariercroquet.com.au).***

- **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM will be held at 9:00am on Thursday 11 July. Notices of Motion must be received by the secretary by Thursday 20 June.

All committee positions have been declared vacant. Nominations are required for the following positions on the 2024/2025 committee:

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Association Croquet Captain, Golf Croquet Captain  
The Vice-President, Secretary and Golf Croquet captain are standing down.

All nominations of Office Bearers shall be proposed and seconded, by financial members, on the form provided. The nominee must endorse the nomination.

Only financial members are able to vote at the AGM. Members will be financial if they have paid their membership fees in full 24 hours prior to the AGM.

Nominations for committee members should be received at least 7 days before the AGM.

All non-committee positions have also been declared vacant. if you are willing to take on, or continue with, any of the following positions please send an SMS to 0412 923 232 or send an email to the secretary ([secretary@portmacquariercroquet.com.au](mailto:secretary@portmacquariercroquet.com.au)):

AC Vice-Captain, GC Vice-Captain, Public Officer, MNCCC delegate (2), Delegate to Croquet NSW, Membership Officer, Stores, Club coaches, Editing Newsletters, Croquet Booking administrator, Website Manager, PMCC Facebook administrators, Grants working group coordinator, SoFun working group coordinator, Grounds and Gardens coordinator, Welfare working group coordinator, trophy engraving and sign-writing organiser.

Thank you to the members who carried out these duties during the last year.

|  |  |                        |                          |                |            |                |             |
|--|--|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| <b>AC Vice-Captain</b>                             | Eric Gadd  | <b>GC Vice-Captain</b> | Chris Cox                |                |            |                |             |
| <b>Public Officer</b>                              | Bridget Earle                                      | <b>MNCCC delegates</b> | Bridget Earle, Chris Cox |                |            |                |             |
| <b>Membership Officer</b>                          | Bridget Earle                                      | <b>Stores</b>          | Dawn and Denis Lane      |                |            |                |             |
| <b>Club Coaches</b>                                | John Hincks, Chris Cox, Pam Wiemers, Bridget Earle |                        |                          |                |            |                |             |
| <b>Newsletters</b>                                 | Bridget Earle                                      |                        |                          |                |            |                |             |
| <b>Croquet Booking Administrator</b>               | Tim Woolford-Smith, Tony Croft                     |                        |                          |                |            |                |             |
| <b>PMCC Facebook Administrators</b>                | Tony Croft, Bridget Earle                          |                        |                          |                |            |                |             |
| <b>Website Administrator</b>                       | Tim Woolford-Smith, Tony Earle                     |                        |                          |                |            |                |             |
| <b>Working Group Coordinators</b>                  |  |                        |                          |                |            |                |             |
| <b>Grants</b>                                      | Pam Wiemers  | <b>SoFun</b>           | Donna Sinclair           | <b>Grounds</b> | Eric Drury | <b>Welfare</b> | Judy Wallis |
| <b>Trophy Engraving and Sign Writing Organiser</b> |  | Bridget Earle          |                          |                |            |                |             |

**AGM notices and nomination forms may be found on the table inside the clubhouse.**

- **General Meeting following the AGM**

Please send me any matters you wish to raise as General Business for this meeting. If the matter requires a Special Resolution send to me before 20 June. Other matters should be sent before 27 June.

You may raise other matters from the floor in Other Business.



- **Working Bee**



There has been a wonderful response from members over the last few years. This year the committee has planned a working bee to start at 12 noon on Saturday 6 July. Just turn up with a bucket, brush and cloths. The inside of the clubhouse will be cleaned as well as the sheds. A few things need to be taken to the tip – please let me know if you can help with this.



- **Reports from the Working Groups**

**SoFun Working Group**

**Coordinator Donna Sinclair**

**1. Winter Solstice sausage sizzle and golf croquet:**

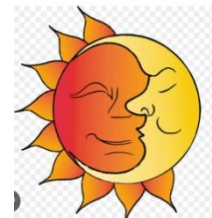
This starts with the barbecue at 12:30pm. Sign in on the club booking site. There will be a raffle for a bottle of red wine and a rug - tickets \$2 each.

**2. Winter Raffle for Gloria's "wagga" quilt:**

\$5 a ticket or 3 tickets for \$10 – to be drawn in September  
There is information about this quilt later in this Newsletter.

**3. Lucky numbers and Hit the Peg:**

A big thank you to everyone contributing and participating in these.  
There have now been 5 draws, the last 2 being won by Kay Craig and Pam Wiemers.



## Grounds and Gardening Working Group

Coordinator Eric Drury

The G&G Team continues to be active in providing weekly maintenance of the courts and gardens by marking the lines, regularly moving the hoops and, when possible, attending to weeding of the gardens.

Further to these duties:

1. The banksia trees on courts 1 & 3 have been removed and stumps treated by "Accomplished Tree Management"
2. Thanks to Eric Gadd and Peter Drinkwater, the skipboards on the western and southern sides of Court 1 have been freshened up, making a big improvement
3. The re-positioning of the hoop holes, as agreed to by the Committee last month, is in progress
4. Following vandalism of the clubhouse verandah window on the western side recently, Mark Bullivant promptly provided a temporary boarding up of the area for which we're all grateful.



The **Grounds and Gardening and Grants working groups** have applied to Bunnings, under their "Our Community Support" scheme, for help in creating a low maintenance, native oasis garden on the Buller Street frontage.



- **PMCC information Pamphlet**

Pam Wiemers has prepared an information pamphlet to hand out to visitors or people watching over the fence. It gives information about the club and a brief description about the 3 games that we play.

These pamphlets will be kept in holders in the clubhouse and the small shelter sheds on courts 2 and 3.

- **Club uniform** to be worn by members at all sessions – sporting clothes in any colour combination of royal blue, white and cream.



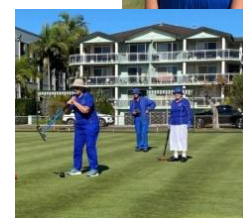
- **Golf Croquet Division 1 Championship next Friday**

Next Friday, starting at 11:00am, four of the club's best golf croquet players (Trevor Thornton, John Hincks, Tony Croft and Tony Earle) will be competing in a round robin for the Division 1 champion. Your attendance would be appreciated.

- **Competition Results**

### **Golf Croquet Division 2 Championship**

In a 3 player round robin all 3 games ended at 7 – 5. Bridget won her 2 games, thereby winning the championship. It would have been an interesting position if each player had won one game 7 -5. The 3 step would not have applied and we would have had to devise a way of determining the winner – probably 3 more games with best of 3 or 5 hoops.





## MNCCC Ricochet Inter Club Competition against Forster

Our team of 5 ricochet players travelled to Forster for this competition. It is always a pleasure to play on their very fast lawns but it takes us time to adjust to the speed. In 4 Singles and 2 Doubles handicap games Forster won 4 games to 2. They are always very good hosts and organise the day well.



- **Competitions in June and July**

Friday 21 June: GC Division 1 Championship

Wednesday 26 June: MNCCC AC v Forster at Port Macquarie

The MNCCC GC match v Gloucester will be rescheduled to continue, possibly in July

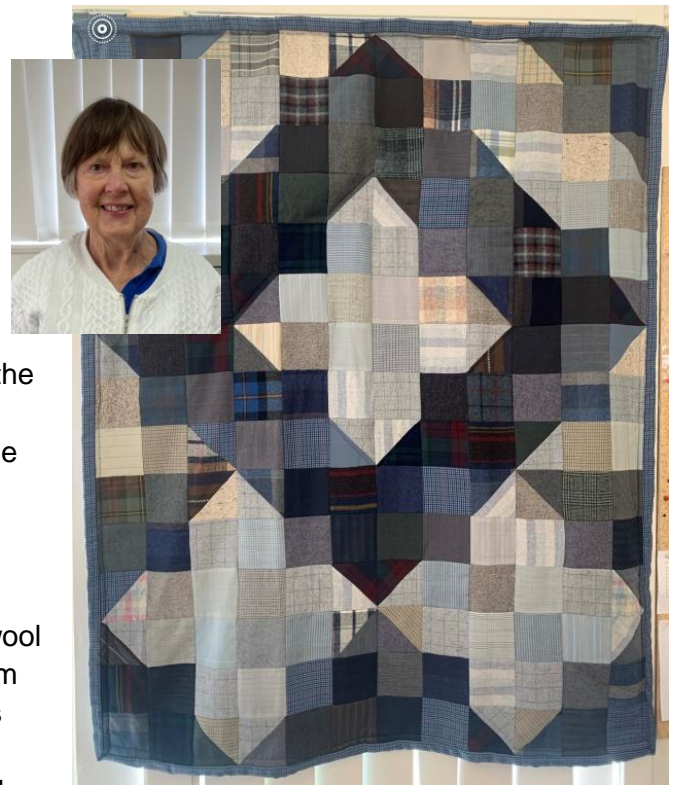
Monday 29 July to Friday 2 August Port Macquarie AC carnival

- **A Wagga**

The term "wagga" is defined by the Macquarie Dictionary as "a blanket made from hessian bags or similar material", but "wagga" is often now used as a generic term that refers to a functional quilt constructed from materials that are on hand.

I was born in Wagga Wagga and lived all my life in the area until we moved to Port Macquarie two years ago. My first lesson in sewing was stitching up chaff bags when I was just tall enough to reach the top of them. Over the years my sewing skills have improved considerably and quilt making has become one of my favourite hobbies.

Moving from Wagga Wagga I was able to bring a small amount of my favourite "stash" with me, and I had in mind a particular bundle of beautiful Italian wool and wool blend samples with the aim of turning them into a "wagga". My plan was to use blues and greys but as my "stash" was considerably diminished I reverted to a pattern contrasting lights and darks. The result is this quilt which I feel qualified to be called "wagga".



Gloria O'Halloran

*This quilt is on display in the clubhouse. The SoFun working group are organising a raffle.*

- **Port Macquarie Croquet Club Facebook Page**

This page is going well and we already have 24 followers. Tony and I have made many posts. If you would like material posted send it to:

Tony Croft on SMS - 0401 558 585 or email to [tonycroft42@gmail.com](mailto:tonycroft42@gmail.com) or

Bridget Earle on SMS - 0412 923 232 or email to [bridget@earles-paradise.com](mailto:bridget@earles-paradise.com)



- **Port Macquarie Croquet Club Website**

Tony Earle has taken over as the administrator of the PMCC website. The committee thanks Tim Woolford-Smith for creating and administering this site.



- **Come and Try**

Do you know someone who is interested in learning to play croquet? If so, contact Bridget Earle, on 0412 923 232, to arrange a free lesson. Please give Bridget their name, mobile number and email address.



- **New members**

We are a caring community. Please try to make all new members feel welcome and help to make them feel comfortable in the club.

- **U3A Course in Term 3**

The Term 3 Introduction to Croquet Course is scheduled for 2:00pm to 4:00pm on Wednesdays 7, 14, 21 and 28 August.

- **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.

- **Communicating with the Committee**

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 by email or mail to the:

President ([president@portmacquarietroquet.com.au](mailto:president@portmacquarietroquet.com.au)) and

Secretary ([secretary@portmacquarietroquet.com.au](mailto:secretary@portmacquarietroquet.com.au)).

These will then be taken to the next committee meeting.

- **The Westport Club**

We are grateful to The Westport Club for the support they have continued to give us over many years. We encourage all members to become social members of The Westport Club, at minimal cost.

Bridget Earle (Secretary)