

Port Macquarie Croquet Club

www.portmacquarietroquet.com.au

September 2025 Newsletter

Snippets from the minutes of the September committee meeting. The full reports are attached to the Minutes of the meeting and are on the large notice board inside the clubhouse. All members are invited to read them.

- Approval for:-
 - \$10,000 from the investment account to be transferred to a fixed deposit at Westpac Bank
 - Grants subcommittee to apply for a grant through the Sports Infrastructure Program for repairs to the clubhouse
 - Four Applications for Membership



As our Treasurer is absent quite a bit, if you are owed money can you please scan or photograph your claim and relevant receipts and email them to treasurer@portmacquarietroquet.com.au. The original claim and receipts are to be left in the Treasurer's folder in the cabinet as usual. This will ensure that you are reimbursed promptly in his absence.

- Work on improving the lawns by gradually adding small quantities of washed render sand to low areas will be commencing shortly – starting on the edges of the lawns and then slowly applying to larger low areas. At this time there will be GUR (ground under repair) signs advising players to not play their ball from that area. Further explanation closer to the time.
- Work on the Buller Street Garden will re-commence the week beginning 22nd September. Early notice will be given of how and when members can help with the barrowing of mulch and planting of plants.
- The clubs website has been updated



To all members having a birthday in October, HAPPY BIRTHDAY

and if you are not in the best of health, get well wishes go to you

FROM ALL OF US



DRY ROT IN CLUBHOUSE – a message from President Jill

As it has been temporarily painted over, many of you may not know that we have a dry rot problem in our loved Clubhouse. After researching last year how best to address the problem we agreed that the Grant Subcommittee apply for a grant through the NSW Government Sports Infrastructure Grant in November 2025. The criteria were to remove the existing external weatherboards of the Clubhouse and replace the exterior wall with Hardie fibre/cement sheeting. Hundreds of groups apply for these grants each year. We waited patiently and hopefully until early this year only to be told that we were unsuccessful.

Although the dry rot cannot be seen right now, we know that the dry rot is still there and has possibly developed more into our building. This grant is opening again in November this year and we have decided to reapply. For the Grant Subcommittee to do this they require specific information. For example, we will ask the builder chosen last year to re quote and ask community groups for new support letters.

Other suggestions have included:

1. Writing a letter to the manufacturer of the cladding needed on the Clubhouse, appealing to their benevolence which would be in the form of advertising their product if they supply their cladding gratis.
2. Speaking to TAFE regarding their availability of students/apprentices to construct the cladding.
3. We are open to other suggestions.

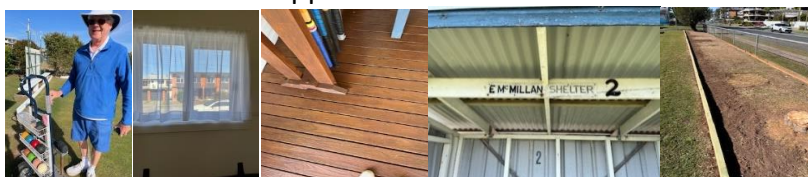
As President I am happy to contact the builder for a new quote and to ask community groups for support letters.

The committee, however, would like to appeal to member/s to volunteer to be responsible for following through with the suggestions listed above. If there are any of our members willing to do one or more of these tasks, could you please let me know. It would lighten the load in preparing for the grant. Grant applications take so much hard work and time. We, the committee would appreciate and be so grateful if you can help with this.

Jill Drury – 0408 381 195

President

Spring is here and lots of improvements have happened over the last month. Thank you to everyone for their effort it is much appreciated.



- ◆ Tony put new tape on the top of the hoops so we can see them
- ◆ Eric has supplied a hose to place over the top of the hoops so the tape does not get damaged.
- ◆ Barb has made new curtains and hung them in the club house.
- ◆ Mark has been on his hands and knees and painted the verandah floor.
- ◆ Tony has been busy with the paint brush painting the mallets on the shed and the sign on the lawn 2 shelter. (Does anyone know the story of E McMillan)
- ◆ Anne and Graeme have been busy in the garden
- ◆ Bridget has lengthened the tape on the cushions for the outdoor seats

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In August, these members mentored participants from Willing and Able. Jennifer Dignam, Julie Bullivant, Lynn Easton, Danuta Chessor, Judi Avenell and Marg Mackie.

Those receiving mentoring are challenged in varied ways, some ways being physically, emotionally and / or intellectually. The difference you have made to their functioning and overall happiness is significant. Thank you members. Especially, a HUGE THANK YOU to our very recently RETIRED Member, MARG MACKIE who has mentored these players for many, many sessions. What a generous contribution Marg has made!

Geoffrey Chessor



Clips used for AC and RC have been donated to our club by Carol Cate a member of Sawtell club and previously a long time member of the Urunga club. Carol has made this generous donation as she has so many happy memories of her time playing AC at Port Macquarie. They will make it so much easier for players of AC and RC as well as spectators to see the clips.

Gloria has been busy again and has donated her latest Wagga creation to the club for a raffle. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$5 each. A locked money box will be on a table in the clubhouse – the box will be locked in the corner cupboard at the end of sessions. Place your \$5 through the slot in the money box and write your name and telephone number on a right hand ticket in the raffle book.



The raffle will be drawn on Friday 15 October, the last day of the golf croquet carnival.

Mid North Coast Croquet Council (MNCCC)

2025 District Ricochet District Championships



Penny, Jan, Peter, Tony and Pam

After days of torrential rain the sun came out for an excellent day of competitive play at Forster.

In Division 2, in the best of 3 games, Tony Croft (Port Macquarie) beat Peter Long (Forster) 22 - 14 and 25 - 9, thus winning Division 2.

In Division 3, Jan Sullivan (Forster), Penny Jude (Taree) and Pam Wiemers (Port Macquarie) played a 3 player round robin. Jan was victorious winning both of her games.

Thanks to Barb McTiernan for organising the day and to the Forster members for their hospitality.

2025 Association Croquet District Championships held at Port Macquarie

In Division 3 Peter Long (Forster), Janine Crellin (Taree) and Steve Scrimgeour (Port Macquarie) played a round robin. Steve won both of his games 14 - 10 and 10 - 6. In Division 4 Jill Drury (Port Macquarie) and Penny Jude (Forster) played best of 3 games over 2 days. The conditions were challenging on both days - an unseasonable 30 degrees on day 1 and winds gusting up to 59km/h on day 2.

Jill was victorious with scores 13 - 10, 8 - 10 and 14 - 7. Congratulations to Steve and Jill.



Janine, Tony, Peter, Jill and Penny

Ricochet has started again on Thursdays from 9-12 with interest from new players to the game.

From GOLF Croquet to RICOCHET by Geoffrey Chessor

Today, a Thursday morning, I dared to try something different; Ricochet! I was sceptical at first, but ventured on. Before going, I found an Internet explanation of terms and procedures of the game. That was both informative and confusing!

The draw was done; Pam my opponent. From that moment on, I had one of the most satisfying Croquet experiences yet! Pam both explained and suggested options, each time it was my turn to play. This mentoring gave insight into the game. Soon I was able to 'roquet', (i.e. have the ball I was playing touch one of my opponents) to gain two more follow-on strokes! These 'continuing' strokes helped to also 'run hoops'. Doing this, then watching Pam's expertise on the lawn gave me a refreshing insight into the many joys of Croquet. If you are thinking of trying a new experience of Croquet, I suggest RICOCHET as one option. It will possibly help development of your skills.

Congratulations to Tony Croft on achieving 4th place in his block in the Australian Men's GC Championships winning 5 of his 9 games with a net hoop score of -3. Tony advanced into the top 16 final where his first match was against Chris McWhirter from WA the eventual winner of the championship.

Can you HELP please?

Willing and Able Mentoring - The opportunities in September to mentor the visiting participants are listed on our Verandah noticeboard. Please sign up there if assisting. You may like to do so with another member. Please write both your name and mobile / phone number so I can advise you of any changes.








Each session is 10:30 to 11.30am; days & dates in September are:

Thursday 18th, Friday 19th, Tuesday 23rd & Wednesday 24th.

Coordinator Geoffrey Chessor 0410 456 355

Golf Croquet Carnival – Monday 13 to Wednesday 15 October 2025

The carnival with 24 visiting players being held over 3 days is a major fund raiser for the club. As well as helping it is a great opportunity to witness the camaraderie of the players and to watch our sport. Help is required in the following areas.

-  Donations for raffles can be left in the donation box
-  Set up the lawns and seats each morning -7am start. Coordinator Eric Drury
-  Catering supplies – slices, cakes, biscuits. Coordinator Barb Evans
-  2 workers in the kitchen to keep players nourished. Coordinator Donna Sinclair
-  2 marshals to organise the players and advise them which court they will be on
7:45am start. Coordinator Pam Wiemers
-  4 timekeepers/scorers 7:45am start and another 4 to start at midday. Coordinator Pam Wiemers
-  2 record keepers to record scores 8am start, Coordinator Pam Wiemers

Roster sheets will be put on the notice board in early October for you to put your name down for any of these tasks.

Planting of shrubs and spreading mulch

Volunteers are needed to help plant the shrubs and spread mulch on the garden beds. This will happen on a day to be advised by the Grounds and Gardening Subcommittee during the week of 22 September. Eric has advised that we have sufficient wheelbarrows but need people power and shovels.

*The organisers of these events appreciate your
help*

Kelsall Shield

In 1994 Mr and Mrs Frank Kelsall donated a trophy for an annual association croquet competition between the Port Macquarie and Urunga clubs. The location of the event alternates between the 2 clubs and the format changes to accommodate the number of AC players.

The competition was held from 1994 to 2007. Due to declining numbers of AC players in the Urunga Club no competition was held again until 2019. With a brief pause, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is running again and the current format is 2 Singles and one Doubles game in the morning and afternoon.

This year's competition, scheduled for 20 August, was postponed because of wet weather. Hopefully, it will be played at the beginning of November. Thanks to Bridget for this contribution.



Gloria's Wagga Quilt

Needing a project to keep her occupied over the many rainy days during winter, her fabric stash came to the rescue once again. Gloria has made another wagga quilt, mainly in autumn tones, and "Mustard Seed" grew from one tiny piece of fabric which takes centre place. Gloria was born in Wagga Wagga and lived all her life in the area before moving to Port Macquarie. Her first lesson in sewing was stitching chaff bags when she was just tall enough to reach the top of them. Over the years quilt making has become one of her favourite hobbies.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 16 Practice with Pam 1-3pm
Sunday 21 MNCCC GC against Gloucester at Taree
Week commencing Monday 22 volunteers for gardening
Sunday 28 MNCCC GC District Championships at Taree

OCTOBER

Sunday 5 MNCCC GC at Taree
Tuesday 7 and 21 Practice with Pam 1-3pm
Monday 13 to Wednesday 15 GC Carnival at Port Macquarie

NOVEMBER

Sunday 30 MNCCC presentation of trophies and Christmas Lunch at Gloucester

DECEMBER

Sunday 7 Club Christmas celebration