

# Port Macquarie Croquet Club

[www.portmacquariecroquet.com.au](http://www.portmacquariecroquet.com.au)

## January 2026 Newsletter

*Please note the following official email addresses for PMCC*

President Jill – [president@portmacquariecroquet.com.au](mailto:president@portmacquariecroquet.com.au)

Secretary Kay – [secretary@portmacquariecroquet.com.au](mailto:secretary@portmacquariecroquet.com.au)

Treasurer Graeme – [treasurer@portmacquariecroquet.com.au](mailto:treasurer@portmacquariecroquet.com.au)

There was no committee meeting in January. President Jill reported that Geoffrey Chessor has resigned from the position of Vice President and that Tony Croft has accepted the position as a casual vacancy until the AGM in July. Jill expressed her sincere thank you to Geoffrey for his valued contribution as VP to the committee and club as well as an appreciation to Tony in filling the vacancy.

A message from Geoffrey Chessor



I've resigned as vice president of the croquet club and I'd like to put an article out to all members in our newsletter explaining why. Here it is:

### FULL TIME / My Resignation.

On January the second, I had a coffee and chat with Jill Drury, our President and basically said: 'I can't do this anymore. It's just too hard!'

Let me explain. We all know that lots of people live with daily challenges and difficulties. I'm one of them. You see, in 1999 my world totally changed. An extremely severe road accident resulted in a head injury and total short-term memory loss among many other injuries. At the time, in his best charming bedside manner, the head injury specialist told me: 'Well that's how you are Geoffrey and you'll never get any better ... and you can't work again, not ever!'

For 25 years I've been striving to improve and prove the Specialist wrong. However, it appears he was right. Since then, I've learnt lots of new coping skills. Responding to

Jill's request a few years ago to take on the vacant vice president position was a test. However, the daily organising, remembering, forgetting, worrying... Again and again, is just too hard even with learnt coping skills. It's too much uphill. So that's why!

Departing this role, may I say an encouragement to you all. It's this, to always show appreciation to all in our club who do any task, besides playing our game. We have many generous members with us. It's really wonderful when a member says 'THANKS! You are appreciated!'

Serving on committee, for our Members, though with Jill Drury - a capable and generous leader, with Pam Wiemers, Julie Bullivant, Eric Gadd, Kay Craig, Graham Whyte, Stewart Sinclair and Bridget Earle has, for me, been a real privilege. Yes, at times it was hard, but a real gift getting to know and appreciate fellow committee members.

The best times though, for me, at our club are just saying g'day to fellow members, playing the game and enjoying it. See you out there on the lawns.

Geoffrey Chessor

## SoFun News

### New Year's Eve Picnic on the Lawn



A very enjoyable afternoon and evening of croquet and friendship was enjoyed by all those in attendance. A few games of croquet followed by a picnic tea and then watching the fireworks from the best croquet lawns.



Not all the **Xmas Lucky Numbers** have been sold so there is still a chance for you to choose a number between 1 and 100 for \$2 per number. 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$50; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize \$30; 3<sup>rd</sup> prize \$20

The next **Monthly Mingle** will be held on Sunday afternoon 22 February. Keep an eye on the notice board for more details.

## NOVICE GC DOUBLES ROUND ROBIN CHALLENGE

Golf Captain Stewart has set the date of Monday 23 February for the Novice GC Doubles Challenge. This challenge is open to all members who have not competed in any club competitions, club championships or MNCCC tournaments and is aimed at new players to experience a day of friendly rivalry in a carnival atmosphere.

Select a partner to play with against each of the other teams. Games will be timed at 1 hour or the first to score 7 points, handicaps are not required. Scores will be recorded to determine a winner and place getters. The winner will be the team who win the most games, if more than 1 team then the highest net hoops win (i.e. the number of hoops you won less the number of hoops scored against you). The winning team will receive bragging rights for the next 12 months. A referee or experienced player will be on hand to help you understand a rule if you happen to break a rule as this is often the best way to learn the rules. Players will be called on to time keep and score when they are not playing.

Depending on the number of teams it may be necessary to continue play on Tuesday 24 as well. So put your name down on the sheet on the notice board. At the conclusion of the challenge a sausage sizzle will be held when winners and place getters will be announced.

### Pennants competition with Coffs Coast Region

Following enquiries by Stewart, Port Macquarie Club has been invited to participate in a golf croquet pennants competition with the Coffs Coast Region. The Coffs Coast Region is made up of 7 clubs however not all clubs participate in a region pennants competition due to their size. Port Macquarie has entered a division 1 and division 2 teams to play against Sawtell, Coutts Crossing and Woolgoolga. All our games are the best of 3 games and will be held at Sawtell on Sundays in February for Division 1 and Thursdays starting in March for Division 2. This initiative gives our club players the opportunity to play against similar handicapped players in a competitive environment.



HAPPPPPPPPPPPY birthday January babies,



And, get well wishes to members not feeling the best and to those who have a headache after Christmas and New Year celebrations, I hope it was worth it.

*FROM ALL OF US*

## PLAY BY THE RULES

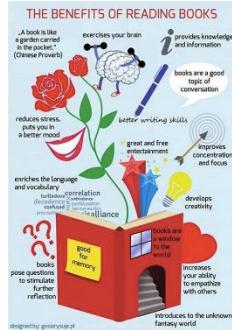
Everything we do is governed by rules and croquet is no exception, however to read and understand the rules of croquet is a challenge and often when playing we ignore the rules. In the July and August 2025 Newsletter we touched on the rules of Etiquette.

**Double Taps** is a common fault but not always understood –this video explains what they are, how to avoid them and the consequences. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGND2fv8rvY>

**Crushes** is another common fault and again not always understood and harder to rule on. This video may help but you can always ask a referee to explain the rule.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smhHV70aPNk&t=8s>

Some bedtime reading to put you to sleep 😴



The WCF Rules of Golf Croquet 6<sup>th</sup> Edition 1 July 2022

<https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/cups/croquetaus/files/1m4ism4qwjzphhfu.pdf>

The Laws of Association Croquet 7<sup>th</sup> Edition 2021

<https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/cups/croquetaus/files/20czqoisvikcypy.pdf>

Ricochet Rules Book 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2023

<https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/cups/croquetaus/files/vn6jjligkale1epk.pdf>

An extract from The WCF Rules of Golf Croquet 6<sup>th</sup> Edition 1 July 2022

### 3.2 HOOPS

#### 3.2.1 Specification

(a) Each hoop is made of solid metal and consists of two uprights connected by a crown. The crown is to be straight and at right angles to the uprights. A hoop is to be 12 inches in height above the ground measured to the top of the crown. The tolerance for the height is + ½ inch / - 1 inch.

#### When Setting Up HOOPS:



*Thank you to those willing helpers who set up hoops before games!*

*To help us all with this important task, the following guidelines are encouraged:*

The plastic hose on each trolley is meant to be placed on each hoop as it is being driven in. This protects the covering on top of the hoops.

The hoops are meant to be driven into the holes to a depth whereby the top of the carrots is still slightly above ground level. THE PHOTO SHOWS THE RECOMMENDED POSITION OF A HOOP WHEN IN PLACE.

Sometimes it is necessary to add sphagnum moss to the holes to avoid hoops being too low or to keep them firmly in place. There will also be available fresh grass clippings in a small bucket for this purpose as an experiment to save expense of the sphagnum moss.

# AND THE GOOD NEWS

As scheduled lawn 2 will be available from Monday 19 January, so ALL 3 lawns will be back in play from that date, what a great effort by everyone who has been involved in work on the gardens, lawns and clubhouse, it looks beautiful and something to be very proud of. If any member would like to be involved in the ongoing care of the lawns or garden I will only be too happy for any assistance you may want to give, contact me on 0419 325 354 or [ericndrury2@gmail.com](mailto:ericndrury2@gmail.com)

Eric Drury (On behalf of the Grounds Sub Committee).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JANUARY 2026

Wednesdays and Saturdays - AC handicap singles

### February 2026

Wednesdays and Saturdays - AC handicap doubles

Sunday 1, 8 and 15 - GC Division 1 Pennants at Sawtell

Wednesday 4 - AC coaching workshop by Gary O'Dell

Monday-Tuesday 23-24 - GC Novice Doubles Round Robin

### March 2026 –

Wednesday and Saturdays - AC Division 3 and 4 singles championships

Thursday 5, 12, 26 – GC Division 2 Pennants at Sawtell

Monday 9 – General Meeting

Sunday 22 – MNCCC GC against Forster at Forster (Merv Clarke Leaf)

Sunday 29 – MNCCC GC against Gloucester at Taree (PMQ to host)

Monday-Tuesday 30-31- GC Division 3 singles championships

### April 2026 –

Wednesdays and Saturdays - AC Division 1 and 2 Singles championships

Wednesday TBA - AC Kensal Shield at PMQ

Thursday 2, 9, 16 - GC Division 2 Pennants at Sawtell

TBA – GC Division 2 singles championships

Happy hooping Pam