

# Port Macquarie Croquet Club

www.portmacquarietroquet.com.au

## April 2026 Newsletter

*Please note the following official email addresses for PMCC*

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

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

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

A few snippets from the committee meeting held on 13 April 2026. The complete minutes are on the notice board.

- A Building Fire Safety Inspection will be carried out
- A meeting is to be held with PMHC to discuss our Licence Agreement
- A meeting is to be held on 13 April with Angie from The Westport Club to discuss grants.
- General meeting on Monday 18 May at 9:00am
- A replacement barrel is to be installed in the main door lock
- 2 new wall fans have been purchased
- A volunteer is needed to take up the rolling of the lawns
- G&G maintenance of courts will be held on Tuesdays 1-3pm from April 1 to the end of August

Mark Bullivant retiring: After three years as a member of the G & G Sub Committee, Mark is needing to retire due to ill health. During this time Mark's wisdom, enthusiasm, multiplicity of skill in fixing, mending, painting, chemical spraying, together with his offering of advice has always been valued. Thanks to Julie must also be included. They work so well as a team for which we are deeply appreciative. Thank you Mark and Julie!

Eric Drury G&G Coordinator



Happy Birthday to members celebrating a birthday in April. Congratulations to Patrick for celebrating a milestone birthday with an afternoon tea with family and friends.

Del Hatton has resigned from the club, citing too many birthdays as the reason, keep well and take care Del

To those not feeling well we hope to see you back at croquet very soon. It is good that John Hincks is back on the lawns after a lengthy illness.

The AGM is due to be held in July and all committee and non-committee positions become vacant. We probably have all been part of a committee at some stage in our lives but please give consideration to using your knowledge and experience to becoming a PMCC committee or non-committee person. The following is a poem copied from the window at the clubhouse.

***What sort of member are you?***

*Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?  
Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?  
Do you come along to croquet and mingle with the flock?  
Or would you rather stay at home and criticise and knock?  
Do you take an active part to help the work along?  
Or do you feel that you have done your part by saying "I belong"?  
Do you help with equipment or tea things to make the day tick?  
Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?  
Please come to croquet often and help out with hand and heart,  
Don't just be a member, but take an active part,  
Think it over, ask yourself, the question,  
"Am I an active member or do I just belong"?*

**Competition results**

There were three MNCCC events scheduled for March, unfortunately the Gloucester one had to be postponed. However Port played Taree and won the day 11 games to 9 and then Port played Forster and won that day 13 to 7.

Our division 2 pennants team has had 3 losses and 1 win so far and I will report the remaining games and the results in the next report or two.

Kelsall Shield AC Urunga v Port Macquarie – PMQ



Barb presenting Kensal Shield



Club members at Forster GC carnival



Novice Challenge players

**Monthly Mingle**



The last mingle was held on Easter Saturday, a small but enthusiastic group enjoyed croquet, Easter treats and a cuppa followed by a sausage sizzle. Best hat prizes given to Tony Earle and Kate Collier.

Since October 2025 to date there have been 4 mingles with good attendance. The \$5 charged for each sausage sizzle and drink has gone to refinance the next mingle and also the Garden Party hence we have not had to dip into club funds. After the last mingle there is \$40 to bank.

Team SinCro at Orange, Young and Forster.



Team SinCro are passionate croquet players and enjoy playing at various clubs around the country meeting up with friends from other clubs and making new friends. They have taken on a themed uniform on the final day of play, representing the club they are visiting much to the joy of fellow players and club officials and volunteers. The umbrella hats keep the rain and sun off the girls but if the wind comes up they could do a Mary Poppins. They have lots of fun and usually win one or more bottles of wine, chocolates or fudge from mixed success on the lawns or raffles at these carnivals. Carnivals can be lots of fun.

## History of Croquet

The game of hitting balls through hoops can be traced back to 14th century France. There, peasants fashioned hoops from willow branches and used shepherds crooks to hit the balls. It showed up again in 17th century Ireland where a British toy maker saw it being played. He then took the concept back to England, equipment was produced and it quickly became the sport of the elite class.



A governing body was established around 1870 in England. By mid the 1880's, its luster was tarnished by gambling and other social concerns of the Victorian era. Even the first known club The All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club, at Wimbledon, ejected the sport and dropped its context from the club's name. Croquet's survival was in the immense popularity as a backyard game. With the influence of the British Empire, croquet found its way to most of the Commonwealth countries.

The English players, not to be banished to their gardens forever, formed the Croquet Association (CA) in 1897. On the other side of the Atlantic, croquet's popularity grew in the 1930's and 40's. It was taken too especially by the rich and famous of the United States. Many of Hollywood stars found croquet the sport to be playing.

This short resurgence in the United States plateaued until the mid-sixties when a group of players on Long Island and another in Florida started playing again. From these beginnings, the US Croquet Association was formed, and along with it, formal, American-style rules and regulations governing play.



The 80's saw explosive growth in the sport, with the formation of over 350 clubs in North America. With the founding of the World Croquet Federation, over a dozen countries' national associations joined to organize international events. It is responsible for unifying the sport and promoting international competition. Many of the world's top players now target the world championships as their sport's pinnacle.



From "Croquet up to Date." (Longmans, Green, and Co.)

## Recognizing World Croquet Day

Saturday MAY 2<sup>nd</sup>

Bring your partner, family member or friend  
(\$10/nonmember)

Lunch from 12.30pm

Toasties (\$5.00) for lunch (ham, cheese, tomato)

Afternoon of Croquet from 1pm

Dress: mufti, Lucky door prize  
BYO: drinks and nibbles if desired  
Tea, Coffee and Hot Chocolate provided  
Book online in the 1pm timeslot

On a sunny lawn so green and neat,  
With mallet tapped and careful feet,  
The hoops stand proud in tidy row,  
Inviting balls to come and go.

A gentle swing, a clever aim,  
Each shot a mix of skill and game,  
A tap, a knock, a roquet made-  
Oh, what delight upon the glade!

through arches small the colors glide,  
with rivals watching side by side,  
A cheer, a laugh, a friendly tease,  
As tactics drift upon the breeze,

from garden lawns to courts so grand,  
the mallet feels just right in hand,  
A game of patience, wit, and flair-  
With joy and sunshine everywhere.

So take your turn, celebrate the day,  
And enjoy the simple pleasures of **Croquet!**

Thanks to members who send in contributions for the newsletter.

Happy hooping Pam