

Port Macquarie Croquet Club

www.portmacquarietroquet.com.au

August 2026 Newsletter

Please note the following official email addresses for PMCC

President Tony – president@portmacquarietroquet.com.au

Secretary Pam – secretary@portmacquarietroquet.com.au

Treasurer Graeme – treasurer@portmacquarietroquet.com.au

Snippets from the August Committee meeting, minutes are on the notice board for your perusal

- Work is continuing on the License Agreement document
- A submission to The Westport Club for a grant under the Clubs Grant program for \$3000 for building maintenance. **Stop Press** The grant successful - \$3000 has been received
- Grounds sub-committee to meet
- Approval to replace the watering system controller
- Proposal to develop a building and lawn maintenance plan



Our long term member Lesley Easton passed away on 28 July and will be sadly missed. Lesley was very respected and loved within the club and croquet community. She was always competitive and loved a challenging game of croquet. Lesley enjoyed staying back for a sausage sandwich after the GC singles. But we had to make sure we had cooked onions for her. 😊

On 28 August there will be a memorial celebration of Lesley's life

A happy games captain, Stewart presumably achieving a jump shot at the Sawtell GC carnival recently. He went on to win his group. Congratulations Stewart. It is good to see that not all competition is serious.



70th Annual Association Croquet Carnival



The front page of the program

I am happy to report that this year's Carnival was a great success. We hosted 24 visitors from 13 clubs and 2 of our club members over 5 days of play. Many got into the spirit of adding colour to their uniform to celebrate this special Platinum Jubilee Carnival.

The weather treated us very kindly and, for a change, we dodged all the forecasted rain. Our members treated the players to lots of homemade goodies and prizes for the raffles each day. The social functions were well attended and enjoyed by all. Pam Wiemers provided us with a beautiful celebratory cake for the Presentation Dinner which we all enjoyed very much. Our State MP, Robert Dwyer, was on hand to present the winners with their prizes and chat with everyone.

Prime News did a wonderful coverage of the event on Tuesday's 6 P.M. local news. This hopefully reached a large group of viewers who may consider croquet worth a try.

The winners and runners-up were from 9 clubs.

- A: Ken Green (Maitland) John Piggott (Urunga)
- B: Kate McLoughlin (Canberra) Kay Munro (Sawtell)
- C: Steve Scrimgeour (Port Macquarie) Peter Long (Forster)
- D: David Gibson (Camberay) Linda Nickels (Queanbeyan)
- E: Bernie Gibson (Camberay) Lyn Baker (Toronto)

Finally, from Bridget and myself, thank you to Steve and Tony for setting up the lawns each morning and to all the members who gave their time and efforts to ensure a happy and well fed group of players stepped out on the lawns each session. Also, thank you to Robin Shenton for taking photos of all the players during the 5 days of play.

The financial report which shows a healthy surplus of \$2659.13.

Sue Moss
Carnival Manager



The carnival took on a party atmosphere with many of the players wearing colourful outfits and the clubhouse was decorated with balloons. Sue and Bridget have organised this carnival for over 20 years – well done to both of them



Happy birthday wishes to members celebrating a birthday in August

Get well wishes also to those members who are not feeling well, we miss you at croquet so hope you are back soon.

If you know of a member who is not well and needs cheering up please contact our welfare office Judith on 0417 135 115



Welcome back to former members Lyn and Ed Dorler who have decided to take up croquet again.

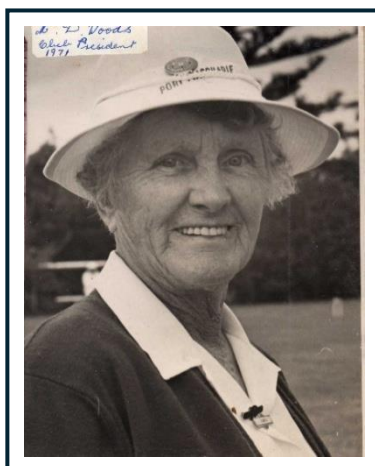
Happy hooping Pam



And thanks to John Watson for the following history of the first tournament in July 1956

Historical Note -- The First Tournament, July 1956.

After the official opening of the club's first lawn in October 1953, the committee had a long running battle with the council in an attempt to have the second lawn completed as agreed. This saga dragged on for over two years with considerable correspondence and many meetings between the club's executive and various representatives of council (and council staff) throughout 1954, 1955 and into 1956. Finally, some impetus was given to completing the task by July 1956 because of an upcoming important event.



At its meeting of 13th April, 1956, the club endorsed a motion from Mrs Doris Woods to hold a croquet tournament during the week of the Port Macquarie's "Carnival of the Pines" and this was used to instil some urgency into completion of the civil works on the second lawn. As late as 18th June, a Special Meeting was held with council to discuss having the ground filled, levelled and top dressed before the middle of July. The minutes of that meeting even record that Mr Hinton "... offered to use the flame thrower to get rid of the grass" so that earthmoving could begin.

*Mrs Eileen de la Rue,
Vice President in 1956,
played a major role in*

running this first tournament. As we now know, it went ahead and was by all accounts very successful. It is noteworthy that golf croquet and croquet games were also played. Unfortunately, the club's archives have no copy of the program for this inaugural event, but the minutes of the July meeting record that six players from Cheltenham, two from Killara and eight from Wauchope had submitted entries. A subsequent note records that a further two visitors from Victoria and New Zealand were also participants. Interestingly, the Cheltenham ladies who attended provided two trophies to the club in appreciation the hospitality received.



Each year since 1956 (apart from 2020 when Covid precluded the event) the Club has run its July/August Carnival with growing popularity. The Silver Jubilee Tournament in 1980 for instance had 72 entrants with twenty interstate clubs represented from Queensland, ACT, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. Such large numbers could of course only be accommodated by a knock-out competition format over ten days and by using other courts at Wauchope and the Presbyterian Church in Port Macquarie. This format was abandoned in favour of a one-week, round-robin event in 1993 and this henceforth became the regular format.

John Watson, 2025.