

A History
of
Croquet
in
Victoria

1866 to 1980

by Joyce Ridley

Approved by Victorian Croquet Association

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PREFACE

The aim of this history is twofold: on the one hand to trace the development of croquet in Victoria; on the other to give a complete record of individual successes in the main trophy events since 1914.

Information was gained from the following sources: Victorian Croquet Association minutes from 1914 and Croquet Annuals from 1915, journals and newspapers from 1870 as found in the archives of the State Library, Australian Croquet Gazettes from 1951, Victorian "Croquet News" from 1969, minutes of certain bowling clubs, reminiscences of veteran players, and club histories as supplied by club secretaries after researching club minutes and local council records and district histories from 1866.

I would like to thank the many people—croquet players and others—who co-operated with me on this project.

August 1980

Joyce Ridley
Melbourne

1. EARLY HISTORY

Croquet, that most scientific of all lawn games, often described as a cross between billiards and chess, was played in Victoria very shortly after it was introduced into England from Ireland in the early 1850's. It was brought to Victoria by the upper class English settlers. It had been the favourite game of the gentry and the military back in England, and they brought their way of life with them. No garden party was complete without its game of croquet. Croquet lawns were established on all the large properties in the city and in the country towns, and knowledge of the game spread rapidly.

It was soon taken up by members of the general public who, having no expanse of private lawn, created a demand for clubs open to the public. Before the advent of lawn tennis, it was the most popular of all sports, being one of the few that were suitable for mixed groups of men and women.

KYNETON 1866

The first record of croquet in Victoria appears in the Kyneton district. The members of the Kyneton Croquet Club, researching their own club history, found several references to the game in council minutes and histories of the district. Croquet was played there in 1866, and probably earlier. Stevens' "Kyneton, Malmsbury and Taradale Directory 1866", which gave information about all services, lists under the "Miscellaneous" heading: "Mechanics' Institute, Cricket Club, Quoit Club, Croquet Club.."

The next reference appears in the "History of Kyneton Volume I 1836-1900", and gives the first documented evidence of the founding of a croquet club. The entry for June 29 1876 reads: "Meeting held to form a Bowling and Croquet Club in Kyneton. Present: Messrs. Lindsay, J. J. Wells, Armstrong, Chambers, Prebble, Parker, Blencowe and Dr. Rigby. Thirty members in sight. Decided to ask Mechanics' Institute for permission to occupy land south of the Institute. Permission granted conditionally." "July 14: Mr. Wells secretary and Mr. Lindsay treasurer of Bowling Club. Arrangements made to lay down bowling and croquet lawns etc." "December 20: Bowling green and croquet lawn opened. Messrs. Wells, Rigby, Buscombe, Hurry, Chambers, Milledge, Sinclair, Prebble, W. Thompson, Jackman, Armstrong and Marshall bowlers, and Mesd. Sinclair, Rigby, Wells, Chambers, Prebble, Misses Milledge and Burge and other ladies croquet players."

The Kyneton Bowling and Croquet Club went into recess at the beginning of World War I. When the Kyneton Croquet Club re-opened in 1920, it did so as a separate entity with its own constitution. The club is rightfully proud of its long history, and a centenary plaque has pride of place in the clubhouse.

PUBLICITY 1870

"The Australian Town and Country Journal" of December 3 1870 carried an article describing the new game as one played by mixed parties of ladies and gentlemen. "It requires skill, judgment and tact, without violent exertion, and although physical strength is not needed, it affords agreeable exercise for both mind and body." In the December 10 issue the same journal published rules and gave a diagram of a lawn setting. With such helpful publicity in such a widely read journal, it is no wonder that the game became popular.

LILYDALE 1899

The next piece of evidence is In the possession of the Lilydale Historical Society. It is a

photograph, dated 1899, of a group of sportsmen and women with croquet mallets and hoops, taken in Melba Park. The Lilydale Croquet Club has been on this location since that early date. Tradition is important to the club. They have a mallet bearing a silver shield showing that it was won in a club competition in 1900. It has been treasured by the members, and is used to run the first hoop on opening day each year.

CHARITY TOURNAMENT ERA

The early part of the new century was the era of croquet as a fashionable sport. Croquet tournaments in aid of charities raised worthwhile sums because of the number of spectators present. The names of these were often reported in the social pages of the city press.

The Australasian of March 7 1903 reported that the opening of the Kooyong Croquet Ground, recently completed at the Kooyong Polo Ground at Caulfield, took place on February 27. It gave the names of fifty-five of the spectators, and published photographs of the ground and pavilion, and of spectators sitting "in the cool shade of the marquee".

The Australasian of January 2 1904 reported that the final game of the croquet tournament in aid of the funds of the Melbourne District Nursing Society was played on the Warehouseman's Cricket Ground on December 21 1903. Major General Sir Edward Hutton presented the winning lady, Mrs. Klingender, with a silver bridge box (the gift of the Governor and Lady Clarke), Mr. A 'Beckett, the partner, being the recipient of Lady Gillott's prize, a silver and ivory paper knife. Photographs were included of the two winners, some of the spectators, and the imposing array of prizes.

This was the first reference to individual players. Mrs. Klingender was to go on to win many State championships at the Melbourne Club, of which she was a foundation member and first secretary. And, a decade later, she became the first vice-president of the Victorian Croquet Association.

The Australasian of May 14 1904 described the finals of a tournament at Heyington-place in aid of the Children's Hospital Fund at which there were two hundred visitors. During afternoon tea, music was supplied by the band of the Fifth Australian Infantry Regiment, who played near the fern house. The winners were Mr. W. Butler and Miss Emmerton, who afterwards played the winners of the Geelong Easter Tournament, Mrs. Hope and Mr. McKinnon. Mr. E. Austin of Geelong acted as umpire, and "gave complete satisfaction". Photographs showed the final match including the umpire, and the band.

Here, in 1904, we have the original country versus metropolitan champions' contest! The name of Austin is a well known one in croquet circles in both Geelong and Ballarat.

CLUB ERA

From the tum of the century, the idea of clubs open to the general public gathered momentum, especially in the country. Ballarat City opened in 1902, and Bendigo, Bright and Ballarat Western in 1904. They were the first of the many. The social life of the women altered considerably. Previous to the opening of their local croquet club the ladies were in the habit of having "At Home" days. On a set day of the month a lady would remain at home for any of her friends to visit her. But, when they started to play croquet, there were no more days "At Home". It was much more interesting to meet one's friends on the lawns. In those days sequence croquet was played, with all players on the lawn at once as in golf croquet today, so that all games were sociable occasions.

The first club to open in the city of Melbourne was the Melbourne Club at Windsor.

MELBOURNE CLUB 1904-1945

During 1904 "some ladies of Toorak", formed a club, and cast about for suitable premises. Encouraged by Mr. Embling, Vice-President of the Melbourne Bowling Club, who had seen them play in the Geelong Easter Tournament in 1902, and had suggested to them that they form a club in Melbourne, they approached the Melbourne Bowling Club and were well received. The Bowling Club minutes of August 25 1904 made the following reference: "During the past few months the winter green and the grass lawn tennis court have been made into one large green, and your committee has much pleasure in reporting that arrangements have been made for occupancy of it by the Melbourne Croquet Club. Thanks to Mr. H. A. A. Embling for introducing this new sport which is likely to prove highly beneficial to the club." Land was leased to the croquet club.

With the formation of the Melbourne Croquet Club at Windsor, croquet in Victoria gathered momentum. The committee obviously comprised men and women of vision who immediately set to work to give a lead. They organized open state championships that attracted wide attention, often from interstate players. They publicized the latest rules from England, where by this time the laws had been codified and tightened up, making croquet a scientific game. There were now many experienced players who were anxious to test their skill in open competition.

The Australasian of May 20 1905, reporting the annual championships, mentioned that the Bowling Club lent a summer green. The issue of April 7 1906 noted one hundred and thirty five matches during a six-day tournament. In all 3 issues, photographs of the final games were included. The two pegs, the finishing (and starting) peg in a line with the first and fourth hoops, and the turning peg in a line with the second and third hoops, as used at that period, are well in evidence.

From 1914 the Argus gave the results of each day's play and the draw for the following day in all championships held at the Melbourne Club.

SOME EARLY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

1905-1915

- 1905 Victorian Singles Championship: Mr. A. R. Butler.
Doubles Handicap: Mrs. W. Butler and Mr. J. H. Cusack.
- 1906 Victorian Singles Championship: Mr. W. A'Beckett.
Ladies Singles: Mrs. Butler.
Doubles: Mrs. Klingender and Mr. W. A'Beckett.
- 1908 Victorian Singles Championship: Mr. W. Butler.
Ladies Singles: Mrs. Klingender.
Doubles: Mrs. Klingender and Mr. J. Tuckett.
- 1914 Victorian Singles Championship: Mr. C. Wren.
Ladies Singles: Mrs. Klingender.
Doubles: Mrs. Klingender and Mr. E. Terry.
- 1915 Victorian Singles Championship: Mr. E. Terry.
Ladies Singles: Mrs. Hogarth.
Doubles: Miss Howat and Mr. A. Skinner.

2. VICTORIAN CROQUET ASSOCIATION

FORMATION OF V.C.A. 1914

Great impetus was given to croquet in Victoria by the formation of the Victorian Croquet Association in 1914. It has remained the single controlling body since that date.

On February 17 1914 a meeting of players interested in the formation of an association was called. A sub-committee consisting of Mr. Vivian, Mr. Richards, Mrs. Stranger and Mrs. Parsons was invited to draft a set of rules. On June 18 the Victorian Croquet Association was formed .

The first council meeting, chaired by Mr. N. Richards (Melbourne) and attended by twenty-one delegates (no record of clubs), was held in the Board Room of the Trustees Company at 331 Collins Street, Melbourne on October 2, when the following office bearers were elected:

Patron: Mr. C. W. Wren (Melbourne, Brighton, Auburn Heights)
President: Mr. A. Bonville Were (Brighton, Melbourne)
Vice-Presidents: Mesd. F. L. Klingender (Melbourne) and L. Bleazby (Brighton)
Honorary Secretary: Mr. H. Vivian (Glenferrie Hill)
Honorary Treasurer: Mr. P. Whitton

A constitution was adopted, sub-committees elected, and arrangements made for metropolitan pennant and state championships.

Pennant started in that same season, 1914-15, and the first open championships of Victoria, delegated to the Melbourne Club, were held there in the 1915-16 season. The Melbourne Club became the headquarters of the association.

There is no record of the foundation members of the association , but within a few months there were twenty associated clubs. A list published on January 1 1915 names Aberfeldie, Auburn Heights (two delegates), Brighton (two delegates), Brighton Beach, Brunswick, Canterbury, Collingwood, East Camberwell, Elsternwick (two delegates), Essendon, Fairfield, Glenferrie Hill (two delegates), Ivanhoe Park, Ivanhoe Recreation , Malvern and Caulfield (later called Caulfield Recreation), Melbourne (two delegates) Studley Park, Werribee, and country clubs Ballarat City and Bendigo.

At that time there were well-established country clubs in all parts of Victoria, but they were not known to the V.C.A. It was not until the 1920's, following the formation of the Ballarat, Geelong and Gippsland Associations, that contact was made. From two country clubs associated in 1914, the number rose to twenty seven in 1927. By 1956 it had peaked at one hundred and thirty one.

The V.C.A. Council continued to meet at the Trustees Company until 1932, when they moved to the Victorian Cricket Association 's building in Flinders 5 Street. From there they went to the Victorian Railways Institute in 1943, and the Masonic Club, Flinders Street, in 1980.

The executive met at the Melbourne Club until V.C.A. headquarters were established in Warleigh Grove in 1948.

In 1917 the V.C.A. was granted affiliation with the English Croquet Association. They then applied for Gold and Silver Medals for competition. England consented and these invitation events for A and B players respectively were started in the 1918-19 season, the President Mr. A. Bonville Were giving a Bronze Medal for C Grade. The E.C.A. Laws were adopted in 1923.

The three main foundation offices in the V.C.A. were filled by men. They held the office of President for the first seventeen years. Following Mr. A. Bonville Were and Mr. A. Glen Roberts, there have been no men Presidents. The first woman to hold this office was Miss A. V. Huntley. Mrs. A. F. Showers was President for thirteen years.

In 1963 the Women's Amateur Sports Council notified V.C.A. that it would approve a representative only if all the office bearers were women. The V.C.A. complied with this condition until 1977, when they withdrew from the organization. In 1966 they had become a foundation member of the Sports Council of Victoria.

Traditionally the governor and his wife have acted as patron and patroness of the association. At least one of the governors, Sir Rohan Delacombe, played croquet at Government House, and during a Royal Visit partnered the Queen in a game there. On one occasion at V.C.A., when asked to run the first hoop on 1972/73 season opening day he scorned the one foot position of the ball and moved it back three feet from the hoop. Unfortunately, he then took three attempts to make it!

The V.C.A. was not the first State association. That honour goes to Tasmania, who had already formed a controlling body in 1908. South Australia formed an association in 1916, New South Wales in 1918, Queensland in 1922 and Western Australia in 1928.

V.C.A. OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER
1914-20 Mr. A. Bonville Were	1914-17 Mr. H. Vivian	1914-1918 Mr. P. Whitton
1920-31 Mr. A. Glen Roberts	1917-21 Mrs. Wharton Shaw	1918-40 Mrs. Wharton Shaw
	1921-25 Mrs. F. A. Coverlid	
	1925-28 Mrs. G. R. Cooper	
1931-36 Miss A. V. Huntley	1928-38 Mr. C. J. Miller	
1936-49 Mrs. A. F. Showers	1938-43 Mrs. G. R. Cooper	1940-51 Mrs. M. Schofield
1949-53 Mrs. G. R. Cooper	1943-51 Mrs. J. C. Anthony	
1953-58 Mrs. H. W. Lilly	1951-58 Mrs. A. M. Nelson	1951-65 Mrs. J. C. Anthony
1958 - 63 Mrs. A. M. Nelson	1958-70 Mrs. A. J. McKendrick	1965-70 Mrs. F. Bolitho
1963-67 Miss F. Mackay	1970-73 Mrs. N. McInnes	1970-76 Mrs. M. Meek
1967-72 Mrs. E. Pretty	1973-74 Mrs. E. Mann, Mrs. N. Rolls	

PRESIDENT

1972-75

Mrs. F. Hucker

1975-78

Mrs. E. Burt

1978-

Mrs. B. Dodd

SECRETARY

1974-75

Mrs. N. Rolls

1975-80

Mrs. F. Geraghty

TREASURER

1976 -

Mrs. I. McNeill

WARLEIGH CLUB 1923

In 1923 Mrs. E. H. Bleazby of Brighton Club called a meeting in the boardroom of the Brighton Picture Theatre to discuss the formation of a club at North Brighton. She offered the use of part of her property, "Warleigh", in Oakwood Avenue (now called Warleigh Grove). The club was formed with Mrs. Bleazby as president. The Warleigh Club opened on December 15 1923 with three lawns (the present "top" three lawns), and a fourth at the north-east corner which was known as the "President's lawn". A nominal rent was charged. The club won the A pennant flag in their first season. The Warleigh lawns were among those hired by the V.C.A. for V.C.A. fixtures and MacRobertson shield matches. The spacious timber club house was ideal for entertaining. For all the big events stands were hired from the Brighton Council and erected around the President's lawn.

Following Mrs. Bleazby's death in 1947, and in pursuance of her wishes, her daughter, Mrs. Cyril Miller, offered the property for sale to the Warleigh Club, but the club was not in a position to purchase. Mrs. Miller, an executor of the will, offered it to the V.C.A. in 1948, and it was purchased by them.

PURCHASE OF V.C.A. HEADQUARTERS 1948

From the early 1920's, the V.C.A. has been investigating possible sites for headquarters. These had included Princes Park Brunswick, Railway Reserve Brunswick, Royal Park, and the Gardiner Creek/Bourke Road corner. But nothing eventuated, generally because the local authority would not permit the constructions envisaged by the V.C.A.

In 1948 the V.C.A. purchased the three lawns and clubhouse offered by the Warleigh estate. The President's lawn was not included in the offer. The purchase price of £3,800 was assured by donations, £5 debentures, and a guarantee from the bank. There was a gift of £682 and an interest free loan of £1,000.

The Warleigh Club rented the lawns and clubhouse from the V.C.A., with the V.C.A. sharing the clubhouse which had now become its headquarters.

When the Warleigh Mansion estate was broken up, the street, now called Warleigh Grove, was put right through.

In 1953 Warleigh Club obtained a five year lease and immediately began holding an annual winter tournament.

SALE OF LANEWAY 1955

Part of the V.C.A. purchase was No. 361 Bay Street, a strip of land with an 11 ft. 6 in. frontage on Bay Street, used as a laneway because it was under the minimum regulation for shops. In October 1953 an agent offered £50 per foot. The valuer valued it as £100 per foot as an adjunct to the bank, although it was not saleable by itself. In April 1954 it was decided that a 4 ft. 6 in. block from Mr. Figuerado 's adjoining property would be purchased as soon as the agent had a purchaser for the resulting 16 ft. block. On December 7 1955 the two blocks were sold together by auction for £1,320, of which £800 came to the V.C.A.

EXTENSION OF V.C.A. HEADQUARTERS 1957

While casually reading their respective copies of the Melbourne Herald of an unrecorded date in 1956, two alert V.C.A. officials, Mrs. H. W. Lilly, president, and Mrs. A. M. Nelson, secretary , noticed an advertisement “Land for Sale, Warleigh Grove, Brighton, apply Housing Commission of Victoria”. Within a few minutes of its office doors being opened the following day, all particulars were in their hands. The property was the one adjoining the west boundary of the Warleigh lawns, ideally situated to become an extension of V.C.A. headquarters. It had an 80 ft. 11 in. frontage in Warleigh Grove with a depth of 321 ft. 1 in and a rear width of 134 ft. 4 in. The tenders closed on December 12 1956 .

Several special meetings were called. On the morning of August 25 1956 it was decided to approach the Housing Commission re the purchase of the property. On December 7 a decision was made to tender £7,000 and in January 1957 this tender was accepted.

The purchase price was not a problem. A builder, Mr. Mills, made an offer for £6,000 for the front portion. He wanted a Warleigh Grove frontage of one hundred feet, with a depth of 130 ft. So he was sold 80 ft. 11 in. by 130 ft. of the new property together with a strip 19 ft. 1 in. by 130 ft. of land on Warleigh Grove already owned by V.C.A.

The plan to finance the purchase had been worked out by businessmen in the V.C.A. Through the wonderful co-operation of all members of the council, extremely generous donations from all clubs and associations, and the sale of the building sites on Warleigh Grove, the V.C.A. was able to purchase the property for £7,000 cash.

The sale of the building sites had left enough land for two A lawns. In February 1957 a tender of £587 was accepted for the preparation of the lawns.

Work commenced in March 1957. The estate was a wilderness, and the task confronting the V.C.A. was formidable. Mr. Charlie Burrows of Warleigh Club took charge and, with the help of Messrs. G. Clark, E. Hunt and E. Gouldsmith, the wilderness was transformed. They dismantled and re-erected fences, sheds and shelters, and built a stone supporting wall.

The November 1957 council meeting was held in the Warleigh clubrooms to give the delegates an opportunity to view the new lawns. These were officially opened on February 24 1958 on the opening day of Country Week by the Mayor of Brighton, Cr. McLeish.

In 1958, at the conclusion of Warleigh Club's lease, a new agreement was signed. The V.C.A. took over the management and running expenses of the property, and the club was given a five year lease with an annual rent of £650 to be reviewed yearly.

With the opening of the new lawns the V.C.A. now had five full sized lawns at its disposal, and

major croquet tournaments could be well catered for. From this time on, all V.C.A. fixtures except Country Week and the Aberfeldie Tournament took place there, and the lawns of other clubs were no longer hired. Council agreed to open certain V.C.A. events to country players.

In 1968 Warleigh Club was given exclusive use of the two lower lawns, with the clubhouse shared, rent \$1,300. By agreement in 1971 the V.C.A. confined its fixtures to the three top lawns, with reciprocal use of lawns on specified days. Agreement is reached at a meeting of the three V.C.A. trustees with the three Warleigh trustees.

In 1960 a bequest from the will of Mrs. M. Schofield, treasurer 1940-51, was used to purchase memorial gates at the entrance in Warleigh Grove, and to erect a front fence.

By the 1962-63 season it was realized that there was a lack of correct drainage on the two new lawns. They were re-done with drainage pipes.

In 1968 a drought affected all the lawns so badly that many of the V.C.A. events had to be transferred to other clubs, and Country Week was cancelled altogether. In 1969 a modern electric watering system was installed at a cost of \$2,901. Another drought affected the lawns in 1973 and several V.C.A. events were cancelled.

GOLDEN JUBILEE 1964

The V.C.A. celebrated its 50th anniversary with a luncheon for three hundred people at the Stardust Restaurant, St. Kilda, on October 20 1964, in the presence of His Excellency Sir Rohan Delacombe and Lady Delacombe. Among the guests were Mrs. Wall, Patroness of A.C.C., and Miss N. Burne, President of A.C.C.

The V.C.A. President, Miss F. Mackay, presided. During the luncheon vocal items were given by Mrs. E. Peters, Heidelberg Club, and Mr. E. Hunt, Sandringham Club, a new honours board donated by Mrs. M. Cooper, Patroness of V.C.A., was unveiled, and a presentation of the A. Bonville Wre Cups made to the winners of the Golden Jubilee Doubles Competition:

- A — Mesd. Parker and Thomas (Elwood),
- B — Mesd. Deutchman and Dench (Essendon) and
- C — Mesd. Ingram and Denton (Warleigh).

The Golden Jubilee celebrations included a theatre night to see the musical comedy "My Fair Lady".

"YOUR OWN CROQUET NEWS"

It was not until fifty-four years after the formation of V.C.A. that a monthly magazine for circulation among the clubs was mooted. In February 1968 the clubs were asked their opinion. In July 1969 a mock-up of a magazine was made. By then details had been finalized and a magazine committee elected. It held its first meeting on August 12 1969, and brought out an issue in that same month.

The foundation editor was Mrs. A. Edgar (Springvale), and secretary Mrs. N. McInnes (Glen Iris) followed by Mrs. G. Yates (Elsternwick). In 1977 Mrs. Edgar and Mrs. Yates were given Silver Jubilee medals in recognition of eight years' solid work, and Mrs. B. Glover (Springvale) undertook the position of editor with Mrs. D. Marvin (Sandringham) as secretary. In 1979 Miss E. Darke (Brighton Beach) became secretary.

The magazine, "Your Own Croquet News", includes a fixtures list, metropolitan pennant

results, tournament results from metropolitan and country clubs, V.C.A. trophy results, A.C.C. news, a large section of news from the clubs, and a very popular page of questions and answers on the croquet laws. It has proved a valuable means of communication between Victorian clubs.

"Your Own Croquet News" sold two hundred and sixty-nine copies each month in 1969. By 1979/80 the number had increased to seven hundred and thirty. In the same period the price rose from ten cents to fifteen cents.

NEW CLUBHOUSE AT HEADQUARTERS 1972

In 1970 it was decided to open a building fund with a view to replacing the timber clubhouse with a new brick building. The response from the clubs was strong. In 1971 the old building was demolished and work began on a new construction with extensive panorama windows, well-appointed offices and kitchen, a large dining area, and a special dining/kitchen area reserved for the Warleigh Club. The new \$24,000 building was opened on May 20 1972 by the vice-patroness, Mrs. D. McKendrick, in the presence of the patron and patroness, Sir Rohan and Lady Delacombe.

Mrs. E. Burt, V.C.A. Vice-President, was able to arrange finance with Mr. John Gerlach, who loaned a total of \$20,000 (\$15,000 in April 1971 and \$5,000 in January 1972), the first two years free of interest.

In 1975 members were asked to take out \$100 debentures, free of interest, so that the debt could be paid off and a big interest payment avoided. Such was the magnificent financial support given by the clubs, including those in the country, that the debt was paid by April 1976. The debenture loans of members were then repaid on a regular basis by lot. By the end of 1980 there will be no money owing on the property. The clubs catered so generously at V.C.A. headquarters during the 1980 interstate carnival that a \$2,000 profit on the catering enabled the V.C.A. to payoff all outstanding debentures.

In June 1973 a new agreement was drawn up with the Warleigh Club reducing the lease to one year to facilitate regular review of conditions. The rent was fixed at \$1,700. By 1979 it had increased to \$2,000.

For a short period following the opening of the new building, special individual membership of the V.C.A. lawns was tried, but not continued.

AUSTRALIAN BALLS

In 1975, the Atlas Grinding Services Pty. Ltd., makers of snooker balls, approached the V.C.A. re the desirability of manufacturing croquet balls. After a period of trial and error they produced a truly spherical cast composition ball, of the same material and colour throughout, that ran without deviation. They were available from May 1976 at \$25 per set, a figure less than half the cost of imported balls at that time. The V.C.A. acted as agents, and used the balls for two years for association events. They achieved limited sale as the problem of using two types of balls in a club was a serious one. And, although accurate for roqueting, the front ball travelled further in proportion to the back ball on a roll stroke. In 1979 the company advised V.C.A. that they had ceased manufacturing the balls.

In 1974 sales tax had been lifted from imported balls. As soon as the Australian balls came onto the market the tax was re-imposed. It had not yet been lifted in 1980.

UNIFORMS

In the early days of croquet, dressing was never uniform. Photographs appearing in the "Town and Country Journal" of 1870 show very fashionably dressed players. The photograph of the Lilydale Croquet Club taken in 1899 shows the ladies in long gowns, mostly black, with tiny waists, high necks, and leg-o'-mutton sleeves. Some are wearing hats complete with flowers or feathers, some are in straw boaters. The men have dark suits with stiff collars and waistcoats complete with watch and chain. Their hats are mainly hard bowlers.

When Mrs. Klingender and Mr. A'Beckett won the doubles in the 1903 tournament in aid of the District Nursing Society, her gown was of such elegance that it would have graced any drawing room. She wore gloves and a be-ribboned picture hat. Her partner looked very dashing in his tailor-made suit and light coloured hat.

By 1908 the dressing of the ladies was plainer, often consisting of a long black skirt with belted waist, and a light coloured shirtwaist. Hats were wide brimmed, often decorated with flowers and ribbons, and tied on with a veil. The men wore dark suits, often with a jaunty cap or no hat at all. Some men played in shirt sleeves.

By 1920 the women were in short, looser fitting frocks, or skirt and blouse. Hats were still large brimmed. The men were into cream trousers and dark blazers and looked more like cricketers, especially as some wore caps.

In 1940 the photograph of sectional winners of country week shows them wearing skirts and jumpers and pull-on felt hats, resembling golfers.

However, by this time a uniform was making its appearance. Seddon was the first club to introduce uniformity of dress. From 1939 their pennant team wore cream and gold—a cream frock and a gold cardigan. But it was not until 1948 that the V.C.A. made a rule that all pennant teams must wear white. It was the fact that synthetic materials had come onto the market at the conclusion of World War II that made such a regulation possible.

England has never agreed with the idea of uniforms. Their MacRobertson Shield teams admired the impeccable dressing of the Australians, but suggested that our teams would be better advised to confer on tactics at A.C.C. meetings rather than on uniforms for the teams. However, John Solomon approved and did take back a recommendation that the England team adopt a uniform.

Victorians consider that there is a greater need for a uniform here than in England, as our lawns are in public view, not hidden away on large estates or in country clubs. In this state alone we have more players than all the clubs in England put together. They come from all walks of life, so the advantages of a uniform are obvious. It is a great leveller.

The regulation uniform included for women a white frock four inches below the knee, with sleeves just above the elbow, worn with a white hat; and for men long white trousers, white shirt worn with a tie, and a white hat. This applied to all pennant and association events. In 1968 the four inch was rescinded and "below the knee" substituted. The frock must be button-through, with belt and collar. In winter a grey skirt was approved. In 1971 a beltless frock and a hat with green-lined brim were permitted for women, and men could wear shorts and appear without a tie. In 1973 slacks were permitted for women players except for pennant, provided that the jackets were hip length. Rain wear must be white. Flat soled shoes or boots in white or brown have always been regulation, and players are requested not to wear jewellery.

Victorian clubs traditionally wear cardigans in the club colour, and open tournaments are for this reason colourful occasions. The colour is repeated in the hat band, on which the name of the club is generally plainly printed. Some clubs have an enamelled badge, in some cases showing an emblem. Glen Iris has a purple iris and Phillip Island a white penguin.

3. V.C.A. CONSTITUTION

ADOPTION AND PUBLICATION

The V.C.A. constitution was drafted by a committee consisting of Mr. Vivian (Glenferrie Hill), Mr. Richards (Melbourne), Mrs. Stranger (Brighton), and Mrs. Parsons (Auburn Heights), and adopted at the first council meeting held on October 2 1914. It was first published in the Croquet Annual of 1915. Thereafter it was published as amended in the regularly issued Croquet Annuals, the last of these in 1967. The council in 1979 elected a sub-committee consisting of Mrs. I. McNeill (Sandringham), Mrs. V. Millar (Seddon) and Miss I. Ridley (Glen Iris), to update it by inserting the amendments passed in the intervening years, and by correcting any anomalies. This edition was published in booklet form in August 1979.

BASIC CLAUSES

The 1914 constitution made it clear that the V.C.A. was an association of clubs under the control of a council meeting to be held monthly. An associated club was defined as one that had exclusive occupancy of a croquet lawn and a membership of at least twenty-five. All such clubs were entitled to one delegate, with an additional delegate if more than fifty members. At this period an affiliated club was one that had the use of a lawn, with a membership of at least fifteen. Such clubs had no representation on council. There was also an individual membership that entitled members to be admitted to the grounds during open tournaments. The objects of the association included establishing uniformity in the rules of the game, establishing a uniform system of handicapping, arranging pennant and inter-state games, and regulating dates for open tournaments. There was no limit to the tenure of office of the president.

The Standing Orders of Council were not adopted until 1928.

The associated clubs paid at the rate of one shilling per annum each for the first fifty members, sixpence each for those above fifty. The affiliated clubs paid a subscription £1 per annum. Individual membership, if required, was set at £1 each per annum.

AMENDMENTS

In 1951 a limit of five years was placed on the president's tenure of office, and in 1972 it was limited to three years.

By 1925 it had been decided to admit to affiliation any association or club on such conditions as the council deemed fit. Up till 1955 they could send a representative but had no vote. In 1955 an association was defined as consisting of at least six clubs. Such a one was given a voting delegate. Affiliated clubs, which by this time meant country clubs, were never given a vote. Their representation was through their country association. In 1972 the delegates of the associated associations were given two votes each. During the 70's one position on the V.C.A. executive was given to the associated associations, but in 1979 the clause was changed to read "if such a delegate find it practicable to accept the position."

By 1918 the rules section had been enlarged. The president was given a deliberative and a casting vote, but the vice-presidents, secretary and treasurer were not permitted to vote.

In 1955 and '56 it was necessary for the players selected for interstate matches to hold the V.C.A. Referees' Certificate.

By 1938 the associated clubs were represented on Council by one delegate for each forty or part thereof. By 1941 the twenty mile radius limit was deleted.

In 1934 rules defining amateur and professional status were included, and professionals were declared not eligible to play in any amateur competition. This step was taken after consultation with the English Croquet Association following a problem with a professional coach. Clubs were not accepted into the V.C.A. from then on unless all their members were amateurs.

The subscriptions rose over the years until, by the 1979/80 season, the metropolitan clubs were paying \$5 per annum per member, country associations \$4 per annum per association, country clubs \$3 per annum per club and \$1 per annum per member. In 1979 it was decided to omit mention of specific sums of money in the clauses referring to subscriptions. The subscriptions can now be changed without altering the constitution.

4. V.C.A. MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

There have always been more country than metropolitan croquet players. The first country clubs to join V.C.A. were Ballarat City, Bendigo, Ballarat, Geelong Belmont, Warrigal and Warracknabeal. As V.C.A. gradually made contact with the country areas, they were joined by Kyneton, Ballarat Victoria and Western, Geelong Eastern Park, Echuca, and St. Arnaud in 1920. By the time that communication was strong enough to hold the first Country Week in 1927, there were more country than city clubs in the association, and by 1956 there were over four times as many country as metropolitan clubs in the V.C.A.

From the 1930's application for membership was accepted from interstate border clubs in South Australia and New South Wales, and the Australian Capital Territory. The membership of Mt. Gambier, and Mt. Gambier St. Andrew's and Methodist, lasted throughout the 1930's, Canberra until the 1950's, Corowa until the 1970's, Barham from 1951 to 1972, Hay from 1956 to 1968. The Albury clubs are still members to date.

There have always been many more croquet players in Victoria than in any other state. An unconfirmed figure of 6,000 is given for the 1950's when the membership peaked, dropping to 2,015 by 1975. Most Victorian clubs are now members of the V.C.A. Prior to the late 1930's, by which time most functioning clubs had joined the V.C.A., it was impossible to make an accurate calculation of the number of clubs in Victoria because many country clubs had not joined. Even then there was no published record of the number of country players until 1968, when the figure of 1,438 is given. The position in 1979 was:

Metropolitan—24 clubs, 785 members;
Country—80 clubs, 1,241 members;
Total—104 clubs, 2,026 members.

The position regarding club formation dates is clouded by the fact that, while some clubs give the date on which the club was first constituted, others have given the date on which they opened, and some the date on which they moved to a new location. Figures show that, of the current member clubs, only seven were formed after 1950.

NUMBER OF V.C.A. MEMBER CLUBS

Year	Metropolitan	Country	Year	Metropolitan	Country	Year	Metropolitan	Country
1914	18	2	1929	27	41	1956	30	131
1916	18	2	1930	28	53	1959	28	127
1917	18	2	1932	30	66	1961	29	118
1918	19	2	1934	31	86	1965	29	113
1919	20	3	1935	31	93	1967	28	99
1920	21	6	1938	31	98	1969	26	89
1922	20	12	1940	31	99	1973	25	83
1923	21	16	1946	30	109	1975	25	81
1925	23	24	1947	30	110	1978	24	80
1927	25	27	1948	30	111	1979	24	80
1928	25	34	1954	30	129	1980	24	80

NUMBER OF V.C.A. MEMBERS

Year	Metropolitan	Year	Metropolitan	Country	Total
1935	1380	1968	907	1438	2345
1938	1144	1969	851	1382	2233
1940	1050	1970	837	1386	2223
1948	1166	1973			2300
1949	1164	1974	829	1272	2101
1953	1300	1975			2015
1955	1240	1976	801	1255	2026
1957	1235	1979	785	1241	2026
1959	1116				

V.C.A. CLUBS 1980 WITH DATES OF FORMATION

Metropolitan

Brighton	1911	Essendon	1912	Lilydale	1899
Brighton Beach	1913	Frankston	1947	Ringwood	1931
Brunswick	1911	Glenferrie Hill	1908	Sandringham	1911
Caulfield Park	1923	Glen Iris	1923	Seddon	1939
Coburg	1921	Heidelberg	1915	Springvale	1952
Dandenong	1921	Ivanhoe Park	1913	Sunshine	1961
Elsternwick	1911	Ivanhoe Recreation	1913	Warleigh	1923
Elwood	1927	Kew	1932	Williamstown	1926

Country

Albury	1930	Eaglehawk	1907	Nagambie	1923
Albury Greenfield Park	1935	Echuca	1919	Newstead	1924
Ararat	1909	Euroa	1906	Phillip Island	1975
Ballarat City	1902	Geelong Belmont	1911	Portarlington	1935
Ballarat Western	1904	Geelong Bareena	1923	Portland	1910
Ballarat Peel Street	1908	Geelong Eastern Park	1919	Queenscliff	1919
Ballarat Alexandra	1909	Hamilton	1909	Rainbow	1930
Bairnsdale	1920	Horsham Botanical Gardens	1923	Red Cliffs	1924
Beechworth	1979	Horsham Kalimna Park	1932	Sale	1908
Beaufort	1920	Heathcote	1925	Sale St Paul's	1936
Bendigo	1904	Kaniva	1924	Sea Lake	1911
Bendigo Quarry Hill	1946	Kerang	1912	St. Arnaud	1909
Bendigo Golden Square	1927	Kilmore	c1931	Stawell	1909
Beulah	1927	Korumburra	1921	Shepparton	1924
Boort	1935	Kyabram	1922	Swan Hill City	c1924
Bright	c1904	Koroit	1914	Swan Hill North Park	c1927
Castlemaine	1924	Kyneton	1976	Terang	1932
Camperdown	1935	Leongatha	1930	Traralgon	1921
Casterton	1978	Lismore	1930	Wangaratta	1906
Charlton	1906	Maffra	1923	Warragul	c1908
Cohuna	1949	Maldon	1925	Warracknabeal	1913
Colac	1922	Maryborough V.R.I	1935	Warrnambool Christ Church	1913
Colac St. Andrews	1946	Merbein	1932	Warrnambool City	1960
Coleraine	1936	Mooroopna	1944	Wycheproof	1922
Donald	1909	Morwell	1928	Yarram	1923
Drouin	1910	Moe	1927	Yarrawonga	1909
Drysdale	1935	Myrtleford	c1950		

FORMER V.C.A. MEMBER CLUBS

Metropolitan

Aberfeldie, Alphington, Auburn Heights, Black Rock, Caulfield Recreation, Canterbury, Carlton, Collingwood, East Camberwell, Fairfield, early Frankston, Hawthorn, Mentone, Mornington, Mordialloc, Princes Park, Studley Park.

Country

Alexandra, Albury Luton, Ararat, Avoca, Ballarat Victoria and Soldiers Hill, Birregurra, Benalla. Brim, Broadford, early Beechworth, Casterton Christ Church, Camperdown St. Paul's, Chiltern. Cobram, Colac St. John's, Creswick, Deniliquin, Dimboola, Geelong Corio and A.C.L. and Hearne Hill, Healesville, Hopetoun, Irymple, Jeparit, Kenmare, Lockington, Mildura City and St. Andrew's, Merrigum, Minyip, Maryborough, Maryborough Methodist, Nathalia, Natimuk, Nhill, Numurkah, Nyah, Orbost, Ouyen, Penshurst, Portland North, Reservoir, Rupanyup, Rushworth, Sale St. Mary's, Seymour, Seymour V.R.I., Sorrento, Stratford, Stawell, Holy Trinity and St. Matthew's, Tatura, Wahgunyah, Warburton, Warrnambool, Warrnambool St. John's and Coo-ee and Wesley, Werribee, Wodonga, Yallourn.

REASONS FOR LEAVING V.C.A.

There is no record of any club leaving V.C.A. because of dissatisfaction with the association. Most of the above clubs are defunct. In the case of such city clubs, the members have joined other clubs. In the country towns, clubs with falling membership often amalgamated. Some clubs, when their numbers dropped, withdrew but continued to function, hoping eventually to build up their membership and rejoin. This has happened in several instances. Not all Victorian clubs joined V.C.A. in the first place, as not all players are interested in pennant, open tournaments and country week, so in the state a few non-affiliated clubs can be found, most of them small. And it is a growing practice now for croquet lawns to be laid down in community projects such as retirement villages.

REASONS FOR CLOSING

World War 1 closed many clubs. Some eventually re-opened—Sea Lake and Caulfield Park in 1920, Donald in 1922. World War II made no appreciable difference. Many clubs discussed the advisability of going into recess, but decided to stay open and concentrate on Red Cross work.

Falling membership has been the main reason for closure. Wycheproof closed in 1938 but re-opened in 1952. The original Frankston Club functioned from 1927 to 1933. Beechworth closed in 1942 and a new club opened in 1979. Warrnambool, which had opened in 1906, sold their land because it was too small for A lawns, and in 1960 amalgamated with St. John's to form Warrnambool City, to which they gave £2,000.

The peak period for number of clubs in both city and country was the 1950's. Since that time, high rents and rates and an ageing membership have all taken their toll, together with the availability of bowls for women.

When their membership dropped, many clubs were taken over by the bowling clubs. This happened to Canterbury in 1968, Auburn Heights in 1969 and Ballarat Victoria Park in 1974. When Auburn Heights closed, they made a gift of money to the V.C.A. to be used towards the erection of a croquet shelter. The Melbourne Club disbanded in 1945 when the bowling club on whose premises they played needed extra lawns for its expanding membership. The A lawns were taken in 1944, and for the next season the A pennant team played on Brighton lawns. The

Melbourne B pennant team won the flag in its last year of occupancy, and V.C.A. forwarded them a cheque in place of the pennant. Since the Melbourne Club at that period was the headquarters of the V.C.A., the closing caused great concern. The executive was permitted to continue its meetings in the clubhouse until the purchase of the Warleigh lawns in 1948.

The most unusual reason for closing applied to the Yallourn Club, which was forced out of existence when the whole town was closed down to give access to the valuable brown coal deposits on which it was situated. The club marked this sad occasion with a "Back to Yallourn" on April 22 1973.

Warrnambool Wesley was forced to close when the church decided, since club membership was falling, to reclaim the land and use it for an old people's flats scheme. They joined Warrnambool City in 1974. The Education Department took over the Caulfield Recreation Club in 1971 for an extension of the Caulfield Institute of Technology. The city council in 1967 reclaimed the land on which Collingwood played.

The first member club of the V.C.A. to close was Fairfield, the club situated on the property of Mr. Macpherson Robertson, later to become Sir Macpherson Robertson. He built a large sports area on his estate, "Carmalia", in Station Street Fairfield, and on January 21 1913 he formed the Fairfield Bowls, Croquet and Tennis Club with himself as president. The croquet section at that time had ten members. On August 30 an exhibition match was arranged against Ivanhoe Park. By 1914 the section had its own president and, on the formation of the V.C.A. the Fairfield Club was one of the first to join. When Mr. MacRobertson moved to another suburb in the early 1920's, the bowling section separated and formed a club elsewhere, but the croquet club disbanded.

Echuca opened on V.R.I. grounds. They began to lose members when the bowling club in 1969 decided to admit women and when the golf club formed its own bowling section. By 1971 they found it impossible to maintain the club premises. However, they have retained their club identity to date, and play A pennant as the Echuca Club on the premises of the Kyabram Club.

The East Camberwell Club, on a point of V.R.I. land at the junction of two suburban railway lines, was closed to make way for the laying of extra lines.

Maryborough Methodist joined Maryborough V.R.I. in 1976.

Cobram is reforming and hopes to affiliate in the 1980/81 season.

5. AROUND THE CLUBS

EARLY EXPERIENCES OF CLUBS

There was great enthusiasm for croquet in all parts of Victoria by the turn of the century, and the idea of clubs open to the general public spread rapidly. It is quite evident that the players were prepared to improvise and to put up with primitive conditions in order to achieve independence. They were no longer willing to depend for their sport on an invitation to play on private lawns on the larger properties.

Some opened on grass, but many had to make do with substandard surfaces, especially in the dry areas of northern Victoria. Sea Lake opened on an earthen surface in 1911, sowing their first lawn in 1922. Lilydale opened on gravel, Charlton on gravel in 1906. Charlton moved again to gravel in 1909, and were not on grass until 1922. Even then there was an oak tree between the lawns which members did not want disturbed, so they just played around it. Shepparton was

another club that opened on gravel, in 1924.

Kerang opened on earth courts in 1912. Cohuna learned to play on earth before opening on grass in 1949.

The Golden Square situation must be unique. In 1927 men and women together levelled a sand dump from the gold mining days, covered it with soil and planted grass, forming lawns used by a combined croquet and bowls club. The ladies played bowls during the week and croquet on Saturdays. Their first mallets were ironbark saplings, and their balls were cricket balls. They watched Bendigo club members and learnt how to play. From a .. "fun" beginning they soon began to take the game seriously.

Mooroopna started practice on the median strip in the main street in 1944 while their greens were being prepared.

After lawns were ready for play there was usually a time lapse before money could be raised to build a clubhouse. This was another period of improvisation, when clubs were forced to have picnic afternoon teas. When Glen Iris opened, they served afternoon tea in an iron shed on the creek bank and boiled water in a kerosene tin. Kew boiled the billy under the trees in 1932. Even when club houses were built, water was often boiled in a copper as at Golden Square.

When Albury opened in 1930 they used a tin shed erected by the council for a clubhouse. It had a dirt floor which was not concreted until seventeen years later. The shed was used for twenty-five years.

ROLE OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Most clubs in Victoria owe their existence to generous and forward-thinking local councils who made land available in the parks and sports areas with which Victorian cities and towns are generously endowed. Rates are charged at a figure which often depends on the amount of maintenance carried out by the council. Some clubs pay rent, some having leases of varying lengths.

It is evident that councils supported their sporting bodies from the early years. Kyneton was able to open on council land in 1876, Lilydale in 1899.

Ballarat Peel Street opened in 1908 on land leased from the council with the promise that the lease would be renewed automatically while there were sufficient members to maintain a club. By 1912 they had thirty-five members, ten of whom were men. This prompted a query on the advisability of admitting further men members. A notice was placed on the notice board that gentlemen players were expected to resign their mallets if there were any ladies waiting!

Ivanhoe Park has been maintained by the council since 1913, Frankston from 1947 to 1955. Many others are so maintained, with the council assuming responsibility for mowing the lawn.

After the formation of Seddon in 1939 there were no new city clubs opened for twenty-two years, until Sunshine and Springvale opened in 1961. Springvale was allotted land in Burden Park on a thirty year lease. This must be the most tenacious club, as they formed in 1952 and their committee worked for nine years before they were able to open.

Some clubs are on crown land administered by the local council. Examples of these are Sandringham on the foreshore, Elwood in the foreshore park, and Warrnambool City. The early

Frankston was on the foreshore.

Councils over the years have adopted a policy of generous loans for improved facilities. The Williamstown Council built Williamstown's clubhouse in 1928 at a cost of £1,200, of which the club paid half. The council allows seventy-five percent off the rates.

Dandenong received a government grant of £200 for new lawns in 1928. In 1980 the Dandenong Council built a high fence right around the lawns, giving so much security that the hoops can now be left in position. New shelters were also provided. The council financed the project.

Nagambie received a two for one grant from their council in 1962 to build on their new location in Glass Park. Warrnambool City built with an interest free loan which they repaid within seven years. Charlton received a \$2,000 grant in 1972.

In 1971 Elsternwick decided to give themselves a new brick clubhouse to mark their Diamond Jubilee. It cost \$7,000 of which the council contributed \$2,500. The Morwell Club had offered their council \$1,500 in an attempt to have their clubhouse restructured. They were pleasantly surprised when, at their Diamond Jubilee celebration in 1978, the council brought them plans for a completely new brick clubhouse and a promise to pay eighty percent of the cost, saying that they liked to help those who help themselves.

When Phillip Island formed in 1975 the council gave them a grant of \$1,000 and attempted to make lawns first in Park Street and then on the lower end of the football oval. When they opened in 1977 the members laboured hard on the property, only to find that, by the following year, they were to be moved to the new Recreation Park. However, the council decided to reward their work by providing a clubhouse complete with toilets on the new position.

These are only some instances of assistance given to clubs on council property.

Often the clubs using council land are required to share clubhouse accommodation with another group. Horsham shares with the district scout group, Horsham Botanical Gardens with the tennis club, St. Arnaud and Caulfield Park with the local band. Shepparton shared with the bowling club until 1949, when they issued debentures to improve facilities. The latest club to open, Beechworth, has club rooms at the Senior Citizens' Club.

Sea Lake have in their possession the 1911 letter to the council applying for land for a croquet club.

Several clubs opened on V.R.I. land. These include Kyabram, Echuca, Maryborough, Warragul and East Camberwell. Warragul were able to enlarge their premises later when adjoining council land was made available.

CHURCH CLUBS

The churches have always given great support to croquet and have been responsible for the formation of many country clubs. There are no church clubs in the city.

Warrnambool Christ Church opened on the Church of England vicarage lawn in 1913. They did not move to the present site until 1925. The members returned to the vicarage lawn to celebrate their Golden Jubilee. Red Cliffs started in the grounds of the Presbyterian Church in 1924, but eventually moved to council property beside the tennis courts. Merbein started in the grounds of

the Presbyterian Church in 1932, but eventually moved to council property beside the bowling club. Mildura began on Presbyterian property and later the Church of England allotted them grounds.

Casterton Presbyterian started in 1934 on Presbyterian property, but when the ground was needed for a new manse they moved to the Church of England, where they stayed until closing in 1962. Boort was started by the Methodist Church in 1935, and the office of president is always held by the minister. After church union in 1977 they became a Uniting Church Club.

The Newstead Club was started by the Anglican vicar to cater for the needs of elderly folk. They moved to their own property in 1924. In 1949 St. Andrew's Church Colac purchased a property for £1,680 and gave it to their club, Colac St. Andrew's, rent free.

An inspection of the lists of present and former V.C.A. clubs will confirm the impressive record held by the church in the promotion of croquet throughout Victoria.

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY

Very few clubs own the title to their property, and those that do invariably find the club expensive to run, necessitating high subscriptions and a continual drive for additional funds. Most of the properties were acquired through bank loans and the issuing of debentures to members.

Warnambool bought a small area of land in 1906.

The Auburn Heights Recreation Club, in which a croquet section was originally included, purchased their own property in 1907. The Glenferrie Hill Recreation Club, which includes a croquet section, purchased theirs the next year.

Hamilton opened in 1909 on council land, but since 1928 have owned their own property, a gift from Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Palmer. Yarrowonga own their own land, as does Newstead.

Brighton Club purchased their present site in 1911 for £170. Bairnsdale owns their own land.

Ivanhoe Recreation Club, which includes a croquet section, opened on freehold property in 1913, but by 1976 they were finding it so expensive to maintain that they sold it to the Heidelberg Council.

Traralgon purchased land for two B lawns in 1921, but in 1949 they received an offer from the shire council to put down one A and two B lawns, so they moved to council property.

Glen Iris Valley Recreation Club, which includes a croquet section, opened on their own property in 1923. Kyneton purchased their own land in 1928 for £420.

In 1948 the Victorian Croquet Association purchased from the Bleazby estate the three A lawns that the Warleigh club had been renting since 1923. In 1956 the V.C.A. bought the next door property, sold part of it, and built two A lawns which are now rented by Warleigh.

EFFECT OF BOWLS

In the early part of the century, bowls had a stimulating effect on croquet. In 1904 a vice-president of the Melbourne Bowling Club sponsored the admission of the Melbourne Croquet Club, and with two other bowlers drafted a set of laws. In many cases, the bowlers assisted in the

laying of lawns so that their wives would have a sport. Ballarat Victoria Club was formed in this way. In 1908 a group of ladies helped their bowler husbands to reduce the overdraft, and in return the bowlers made lawns for wives and friends. In Portarlington the bowlers prepared lawns for a croquet club in 1935.

Some clubs found a home when the bowling club moved out to improved quarters. These include Eaglehawk in 1907. The Bright Club played on bank land until 1933 when the bowlers moved and passed their lawns over. Swan Hill City moved from their original location to the site of the ladies' bowling club in 1975. Wycheproof, founded in 1922, played on bowls lawns until their own were ready in 1923.

Some clubs were formed in association with bowlers. This applied to Victoria's very first club, Kyneton, when a public meeting formed a Bowling and Croquet Club in 1876. The recreation clubs Auburn Heights, Glenferrie Hill, Ivanhoe, Glen Iris and Caulfield were formed in conjunction with bowls and tennis. Beulah decided in 1927 to form a Bowling and Croquet Club. This has functioned for fifty-three years as a joint effort regarding greens and buildings. The lawns are beautifully maintained, mainly by voluntary work of the bowling men, who cut the lawns and replace the hoops. The bowlers make their lawns available in November for a croquet tournament. In return, croquet members involve themselves in catering for bowls tournaments and visits from bowlers throughout the season. Wangaratta were associated with bowls from 1907 until 1959. Euroa provides afternoon tea for the bowlers.

Castlemaine croquet and bowls are associated. They use the same facilities, the bowls club looking after the cutting and fertilizing. Financially they function as one club. When the Mooroopna Bowls and Croquet Club formed in 1944, extra length was added to the croquet lawns to make the measurements up to a four rink bowls green, to be used on special occasions as required, with reciprocation either way. The bowlers laid the lawns.

Some bowling clubs, including Koroit, Traralgon and East Shepparton, lend their lawns for croquet tournaments. Red Cliffs tries to hold its tournament during the Mildura Bowls Carnival as some of the bowlers' wives play croquet.

In some cases the fact that bowls play for women was not possible on Saturday afternoons was the catalyst that resulted in the formation of certain croquet clubs. The ladies of the Golden Square Bowling Club, not permitted Saturday play, were given a small section of the bowling green and formed a croquet club in 1927. The Brighton Beach Croquet Club, which was associated with bowls when formed in 1913, decided to move away in 1922 owing to no Saturday play. The council made lawns available in another park of the Public Reserve.

The long-established Melbourne Bowling Club leased lawns to the Melbourne Croquet Club from 1904 to 1945. They received ten shillings and sixpence of each guinea subscription, £80 minimum, and, after the first year, half the net profit of any tournament.

Unfortunately, in later years, it was pressure from bowling clubs needing more lawn space that resulted in the demise of many croquet clubs as their membership fell.

EFFECT OF PRIVATE LAWNS

It is evident that, from the 1860's onward, croquet was a very popular garden party game, and many large homes both in city and country possessed their own croquet lawns. This definitely had the effect of promoting the game. And when the idea of clubs open to the general public took firm root, a private lawn was often available until the club's lawn was ready. Drouin, Kyabram,

Bairnsdale, Phillip Island and Brighton are among those that started in this way. Mr. A. B. Were used to invite Brighton Club to play on his lawns during their winter recess. During World War 11 when Elsternwick ran a croquet tournament in conjunction with an archery contest in the local park in aid of the war effort, it was so popular that surrounding homes lent their lawns to accommodate the overflow.

Drouin has photographs of croquet parties on private lawns taken in 1903. Even as late as 1962, when the council was moving Nagambie to a different location, the club played on private lawns until their new ones were ready.

Most of the early guest houses had their own croquet lawns, and their influence is not be underestimated. They led many holiday makers to take up serious croquet. Mr. T. Howat began his croquet career by playing Kingball all through the '40's and early '50's while vacationing at his favourite guest house.

PARKS

Many of our clubs are situated in parks. The benefit is mutual. The beautiful surroundings and the good fresh air make for a relaxed atmosphere in the club, while the green lawns of the club add to the general impression of restful space.

The Ararat Advertiser of February 15 1910 says: "The Alexander Croquet Club has become a live institution in our midst. Large numbers of ladies and gentlemen play on the prettily situated grounds on the Town Hall side of the lake. The greens and shrubs make it a very pleasant spot."

The situation is good from the publicity angle, as there are always interested spectators. Dandenong was surrounded for many years by a low fence with a conveniently flat top that made a comfortable elbow rest for passers by. "The lawns are a source of pleasure not only to our own members but to the many people who lean on our fence and watch the play, doubtless wondering what we are trying to do."

One club, Portland, is so much part of the park that it has no lawn dividers and no surrounding fence. The effect must be appreciated by the general public, as it is possible to leave the hoops in position.

LAWNS

Many clubs started with two undersized B lawns and gradually acquired more ground. The average club now has an area big enough to accommodate two A lawns. The largest area is at V.C.A. headquarters, where there are five A lawns. Horsham, Warracknabeal and Bairnsdale can accommodate four A lawns.

Lawns lit by electricity for night play include Brunswick, Coburg, Shepparton and Mooroopna. Brunswick runs an annual electric light tournament. In their early days Warleigh was electrically lit and ran a night tournament for many years.

All clubs divide their A lawns crossways into two on a regular basis for the benefit of their B and C grade players, who play all their games on these half size courts. This custom originated in Victoria in the early years as the only means of accommodating the very large number of players in this state. Even V.C.A. championship events for B and C grades take place on the small lawns.

CLUBHOUSES

Some of the clubhouses have an interesting history. Brighton's first clubhouse was a cabmen's

shelter given by the council in 1911. This burnt down the following year, and had to be replaced by the club at a cost of £91. The verandah, added later, was the gift of Mrs. Bleazby.

After the Brighton Beach clubhouse burnt down in 1914, the members purchased a building in South Yarra but were unable to gain permission to transport and erect it owing to wartime restrictions. However, the members had done so much knitting for the troops, having made five thousand knitted articles using their own wool, that the council eventually granted permission on the grounds that they were a charitable organization.

Newstead bought a station hand hut for £10 in 1924. The Euroa Golf Club gave their clubhouse to the croquet club in 1946; moving it cost £150. In 1975 Sea Lake purchased a country school building and moved it into the town.

The Williamstown clubhouse, a spacious and elegant 1928 building, was used as a dance hall of the period in an episode of "The Sullivans" on television in 1977. Portion of the Colac St. Andrew's clubhouse is eighty-two years old. Originally a bowling club tea house, it was purchased for £10 in 1946.

The Glen Iris Valley Recreation Club, of which the Glen Iris Croquet Club is a section, has a canteen for the provision of light refreshments, employing a part-time supervisor.

The Auburn Heights Recreation Club, to which the Auburn Heights Croquet Club belonged, is licensed premises. The Essendon Club, built as part of a council sports complex, has, as well as its own clubhouse, access to a licensed lounge shared by hockey, cricket, athletics, baseball, tennis, football and croquet.

CHANGE OF POSITION

Many of the clubs have moved during their lifetime, generally at the request of the council. In most cases these moves have been to the club's advantage, with the council offering improved facilities'.

Wangaratta moved from their 1906 site to a new council site in 1959. Charlton opened in conjunction with the tennis club in 1906, moved away in 1909, then were moved by the council to their present site in 1955.

Sandringham, who opened in 1911 as the Werrawea Club, moved to the foreshore as a bowls and croquet club in 1912, then separated and moved next door in 1915.

In 1929 Kyneton moved from their 1876 position behind the Mechanics' Institute to freehold premises in Ebdon Street.

Traralgon, established in 1921, moved in 1954 at the shire's request. Elwood were moved from the north to the south end of the foreshore reserve in 1970. Ringwood were moved from the Warrandyte Park where they had been since 1931 to Jubilee Park in 1959.

TRAGEDIES

Many clubs have experienced costly misfortunes. Several lost their clubhouse through fire— Brighton in 1912, Brighton Beach in 1914, Glen Iris in 1950 and Coburg in 1952. They were all replaced within a year or two. In 1977 the bowls clubhouse adjacent to the Caulfield Park Club was destroyed by fire and the council decided to demolish the weatherboard croquet clubhouse and build a new brick complex. The club lost one B lawn in the process. In the interim period the

government supplied a portable clubhouse. In February 1980 a foreshore fire destroyed the Sandringham clubhouse which had been quite surrounded by trees and scrub. The fact that the lawns had just received a four hour watering saved them. The government supplied the same portable clubhouse that Caulfield Park had used. This enabled them to function while awaiting council decision on their future.

Water is another hazard. Glen Iris was flooded by the Gardiner Creek in 1934. Shepparton has been flooded on several occasions, the worst being in 1974 when the waters of the Goulburn River rose four feet six inches up the walls of the clubhouse. The level is marked.

Misfortunes have taken many forms. An oil tanker overturned on the Kilmore lawns and they had to be dug up and replaced. In 1959 Glen Iris Club received an ultimatum from the Board of Works that an incursion was about to take place to enable the laying of a sewer main through the lawns. Eventually it was decided to do extensive tunnelling instead of surface excavation and the lawns were saved. Recompense was paid. Although the tunnelling was very deep, years later in 1978 there was a serious subsidence. Currently the Glen Iris Valley Recreation Club is under threat from the proposed extension of the South Eastern freeway, which may pass through the property.

MONEY RAISING

Ideas for raising money are varied. Very few clubs find that the subscriptions cover the running costs. Most clubs have a periodic "table day", with a "bring and buy" stall and a raffle for club members. Glenferrie Hill makes and sells (but does not serve) sandwiches to the bowling section. Mooroopna has a permanent Opportunity Shop in the main street which they operate on several days each week. Traralgon collects waste paper to sell to the local papermill. Since 1962 they have made \$250 each year. In 1929 Beulah ran an Ugly Man Competition which was such a success that it cancelled all their debts.

EARLY CHARGES

When Charlton opened in 1906 the subscriptions were: Ladies seven shillings and sixpence, gentlemen ten shillings and sixpence, family £1. Glenferrie Hill charged £4 for a family ticket in 1908. A set of croquet balls worth £3.10.0 was donated to the Ballarat Peel Street Club when it opened in 1908, and hoops were purchased at one shilling and sixpence each. Two lawns were constructed at Brighton for £60 in 1911. When Mr. Macpherson Robertson joined Brighton in March 1916, having been proposed by Mr. A. Bonville Were, he paid £1.1.0 entrance fee and ten shillings and sixpence pro rata subscription.

MEN'S GROUP

In 1952 eleven men members of V.C.A. clubs formed a men's group, the foundation office bearers being: president Mr. T. Howat (Brunswick) and secretary Mr. J. Heyme (Seddon). Enthusiasm ran high and they made plans to establish their own premises. However, this did not come to pass although the numbers continue to grow. By 1971 there were thirty-two members including men from country clubs. In 1967 they applied for admission to the V.C.A. as an associated group with representation on council, but the application was refused as a group is not within the terms of the constitution.

The group's first tournament under the auspices of the V.C.A took place in January 1970, being a handicap event. An annual tournament for men only has been a V.T.U. fixture since that date. They hire the V.C.A. lawns one Sunday each month, and on another Sunday they often visit a

country club by invitation. The club members provide a light luncheon and club funds benefit considerably, especially as the men's families often accompany them. Their visits do much to lift the standard of play both of themselves and of the spectators. Their aggregate scores count towards a perpetual trophy, the Tom Fowle Memorial Cup, presented by Mr. F. Sanders in memory of member Mr. T. Towle (Elsternwick) who passed away at the V.C.A. lawns in October 1969. The successful members were: 1970 Mr. C. A. Porritt (Brunswick), 1971 Mr. F. Hanna (Elsternwick), 1972 Mr. T. McMahon (Brunswick), 1973, 1975 and 1977 Mr. R. Sloane (Sandringham), 1979 Mr. E. Anderson (Ringwood).

Membership stood at twenty-seven in 1979/80, with president Mr. A. Clark (Sandringham), secretary Mr. F. Sanders (Seddon), and treasurer Mr. L. Hillard (Seddon). All remain members of clubs.

INDIVIDUALS OF INTEREST

Lismore is proud of its youngest member, Steven Forster, who won Country Week C Grade when thirteen years of age. Croquet's oldest player is Mrs. B. Hargrave, formerly of Horsham and Glen Iris clubs, now of Warleigh, who, at the age of ninety-five years, still plays several times a week and enters every Veterans' Day tournament. Bright's Mrs. Snell, Horsham's Mrs. A. Phillips and Frankston's Mr. D. Spooner are all over ninety years of age.

Sandringham arranged a celebration in 1979 to honour Mr. E. Hunt's fifty years with the club. Eddie, who played in Australia's MacRobertson Shield test teams in 1935 and 1937, still plays in first class matches. He entered the interstate singles championship at the 1980 carnival.

Ararat Alexandra Club holds the original receipt issued in 1928 to Mrs. H. J. Blackie when, as mayoress, she joined the club. She has fifty-two years of continuous membership and continuous play. Colac's Mrs. H. L. Miles had fifty years membership in 1979. Kyneton's Mrs. V. Clements was a member for sixty years. Morwell Club in 1978/79 had two foundation members from 1928, Mrs. R. Gude and Mrs. O. Mills. At Elwood's Golden Jubilee Mrs. Kay, ninety-eight years of age and a foundation member of the club, was present.

Miss F. Mackay of Glenferrie Hill won the club championship twelve times over a period of fifty-five years, the first time in 1911/12 and the last in 1966/67. A foundation member of the club in 1908, when her father bought a family ticket, she is still an active committee member seventy-two years later.

Ballarat City's Mrs. R. A. Francis was treasurer for thirty-five years. Mrs. M. Smith of Portland has managed the Portland Open Tournament for twenty years and Mrs. O. Bayley, of Hamilton and Glen Iris, has acted as Portland's referee in charge for nineteen years.

Colac St. Andrew's Mrs. Barbetti was a foundation member in 1924.

During the 1969/70 season a family record was created when three generations in the one family played croquet—Mrs. L. Herbert of Orbost, her daughter, Mrs. J. F. Russell of Kyabram, and Mrs. Russell's daughter, Mrs. Jan Thomas of Ouyen.

Another family record was created at Bairnsdale, where Mrs. Stokes and her three daughters were all playing members at one period.

Mr. MacRobertson of Fairfield, Warleigh, Auburn Heights, Brighton and Melbourne, was an ambidextrous croquet player, handicap - 3, who was so enthusiastic that, in order to get enough

play, he made it a habit to belong to many clubs at one and the same time. He was a self-made man, a millionaire by 1923 and the highest taxpayer in the state. Born in 1861 of poor parents, he sold newspapers and lathered faces for a barber during his school days. Leaving school at the age of ten years, he eventually went to work for a manufacturing confectioner. When he was nineteen years of age he decided that his mission in life was to make sweets. His first effort was cooked in a jam tin, over a gas jet. In 1933 when he made a vast contribution to the state for, among other projects, the erection of the MacRobertson Girls' High School, he asked that a croquet lawn be laid down and the girls instructed in the game. The minutes of the Fairfield Bowls, Croquet and Tennis Club show that his signature as president was a facsimile of the famous MacRobertson trade mark with its copper plate handwriting and decorative swirls. To do it he sketched it out in pencil and went over it in ink.

Coburg's Mr. T. Howat has the unusual distinction of inclusion in the Guinness Book of Records, in recognition of his many records in state and interstate events.

HONOURS AT LOCAL COUNCIL LEVEL

Several croquet players have received recognition from their local council. Mrs. G. Edwards of Shepparton received the Sportswoman of the Year award in 1967 and the Sportsman of the Year in 1969. And in 1973 she had the unique experience of having a street named after her—Grace Court. Mrs. P. Harrison of Bendigo was named Sportsman of the Month in 1968. When Mrs. H. Merry lees of Euroa received the Sportsman of the Year award in 1973, it comprised a trip to the Gold Coast for two, a silver pewter salver and four silver goblets, and for her club the sum of \$200.

HONOURS AT GOVERNMENT LEVEL

In recognition of her work for croquet Mrs. G. Edwards of Shepparton was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honour List 1979. The decoration is in three parts: a silver gilt medal to be worn on state occasions, a replica in miniature to be worn if in evening dress, and a silver gilt brooch which may be worn at any time.

6. DISCONTINUED V.C.A. TROPHY EVENTS

THE CROQUET (ENGLISH) ASSOCIATION'S GOLD MEDAL

Following its formation, the V.C.A. asked the English Croquet Association to donate a medal. England graciously agreed, and gave a gold medal to each State every year from 1918 until the Second World War for competition between selected minus players.

THE CROQUET (ENGLISH) ASSOCIATION'S SILVER MEDAL

This was given by England to each state every year from 1918 until the Second World War. The V.C.A. awarded it for competition between B grade players nominated by clubs. Among the conditions for play was the guarantee that the winner would be promoted to A grade.

THE "A. BONVILLE WERE" BRONZE MEDAL

A medal given by Mr. A. Bonville Were of Brighton Club, first V.C.A. President, for competition between C grade club representatives from 1918 to 1963. The winner was guaranteed promotion to B grade.

CHANGE IN GUARANTEE

After Mrs. E. Baner (Ringwood, then Glen Iris) won the Silver and Bronze medals in two consecutive years, 1934/35 and 1935/36, and Mrs. J. T. Edwards (Dandenong) likewise in 1935/36 and 1936/37, the V.C.A. withdrew the guarantees of promotion, substituting a reduction of 2 bisques.

"CYRIL J. MILLER" GOLD MEDAL

A medal given by Mr. C. J. Miller of Warleigh Club, captain of the Australian MacRobertson Shield team on four occasions, secretary of V.C.A. from 1928 to 1938 and handicapper for many years. Awarded for competition between Scratch, 1 and 2 handicap players. Guarantee given that winner would lose $\frac{1}{2}$ a bisque.

PRESIDENT'S TROPHY

The donor, Mrs. A. F. Showers of Essendon Club, was president of V.C.A. from 1936 to 1949. The trophy, awarded from 1938 to 1943, was given for competition between club champions. The conditions specified that the C grade club champion should play the B grade club champion on the A lawn, then the winner play the A grade champion. The winner of this match then represented the club. In 1940 it was changed to a handicap event with similar conditions. In the 1942/43 season Miss D. Pakes of Auburn Heights Club won the trophy on a handicap of 13.

MRS. KNELL TROPHY

Given by Mrs. Knell of Ivanhoe Recreation Club for Junior A competition from 1929 to 1939.

WHARTON SHAW TROPHY

After the withdrawal of the Mrs. Knell Trophy, a trophy for Junior A competition was given from 1939/40 until 1958/59 by Mrs. Wharton Shaw of Glenferrie Hill Club, V.C.A. secretary from 1917 to 1921 and V.C.A. treasurer from 1918 to 1940.

THE FLORENCE GREENHAM TROPHY

Given by Mrs. F. Greenham of Glenferrie Hill Club for competition between selected Junior A players from 1947 to 1954.

THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION'S SILVER MEDAL

Given by V.C.A. from 1944 to 1963 for competition between B grade club representatives.

A. GLEN ROBERTS GOLD MEDAL

Donated by Mr. A. Glen Roberts of Brighton Club, foundation member of V. C. A. and president from 1920 to 1931. Given in season 1950/51 for competition between ten selected Senior A players.

A. GLEN ROBERTS TROPHY

Given by Mr. A. Glen Roberts in the season 1951/52 for competition between ten selected Senior A players.

A. GLEN ROBERT MEMORIAL TROPHY

Following the death of Mr. A. Glen Roberts, his family donated a trophy in his memory from

1954 to 1974 for competition for Junior A level play between players nominated by metropolitan clubs and country associations.

ASSOCIATION DOUBLES

In the 1960/61 season a doubles handicap event was introduced for Junior A, B and C grades. The Wren Memorial Senior A doubles event was cancelled in the 1961/62, 1962/63 and 1963/64 seasons, and the association doubles, limited to metropolitan players, played in A grade, B grade and C grade. The doubles took place again in the 1969/70 season. The Wren Memorials were re-introduced from the 1964/65 season.

RESULTS OF DISCONTINUED VCA TROPHY EVENTS

The Croquet (English) Association's Gold Medal

18-19	Mr. A. Glen Roberts (Auburn Heights)	34-35	Mrs. F. Jeffrey (Melbourne)
19-20	Mrs. J. T. Hogarth (Melbourne)	35-36	Mr. C. J. Miller (Warleigh)
20-21	Mr. C. Miller (Brighton)	36-37	Mr. C. J. Miller (Warleigh)
21-22	Mr. E. Terry (Melbourne)	37-38	Mrs. P. J. Kerr (Brighton)
22-23	Mr. W. T. McCleery (Auburn Heights)	38-39	Miss M. I. Craig (Warleigh)
23-24	Mr. J. C. Windsor (Melbourne)	39-40	Miss M. I. Craig (Warleigh)
24-25	Mr. W. T. McCleery (Auburn Heights)	40-41	Mrs. A. B. Challen (Elsternwick)
25-26	Mr. C. J. Miller (Warleigh)	41-42	Miss M. I. Craig (Warleigh)
26-27	Mr. C. J. Miller (Warleigh)	42-43	No Competition
27-28	Mr. J. C. Windsor (Melbourne)	43-44	No Competition
28-29	Mr. C. J. Miller (Warleigh)	44-45	Mrs. A. B. Challen (Elsternwick)
29-30	Mr. F. J. Crabb (Warleigh)	45-46	Mrs. R. C. Edwards (Auburn Heights)
30-31	Mr. C. I. Miller (Warleigh)	46-47	Mrs G. R. Cooper (Brighton)
31-32	Mr. C. I. Miller (Warleigh)	47-48	Mr. D. Miller (Warleigh)
32-33	Mr. C. I. Miller (Warleigh)	48-49	Major R. Tingey (Glen Iris)
33-34	Mrs. E. Terry (Melbourne)	49-50	Mrs. R. G. Cooper (Brighton)

The Croquet (English) Association's Silver Medal

18-19	Mrs. G. Allen (Brunswick)	30-31	Miss N. Burne (Melbourne)
19-20	Mrs. C. A. Whittington (East Camberwell)	31-32	Mrs. E. H. Fenton (Elwood)
20-21	Mrs. J. Roberts (Brunswick)	32-33	Mr. W. J. Todd (Sandringham)
21-22	Mrs. G. E. Furnell (Ivanhoe Park)	33-34	Mrs. R. Ross (Auburn Heights)
22-23	Mrs. R. Doggett (Brighton)	34-35	Miss Stubbs (Brighton)
23-24	Mrs. P. Smith (Melbourne)	35-36	Mrs. Baner (Ringwood)
24-25	Miss Strang (Brighton)	36-37	Mrs. J. T. Edwards (Dandenong)

25-26	Mrs. H. Fields (Warleigh)	37-38	Mrs. F. Pakes (Auburn Heights)
26-27	Mrs. J. R. Andrews (Warleigh)	38-39	Mrs. A. E. Cameron (Caulfield Recreation)
27-28	Mr. H.K. McCleery (Coburg)	39-40	Miss Gamble (Collingwood)
28-29	Mrs. J. Wood (Ivanhoe Park)	40-41	Mrs. J. C. Anthony (Hawthorn)
29-30	Mrs. N. W. Robertson (Glenferrie Hill)	41-42	Mr. N. Semken (Black Rock)
		42-43	No Competition

The "A. Bonville Were" Bronze Medal

18-19	Mrs. J. B. Mellis (Brighton)	41-42	Mrs. F. Tilson (Glen Iris)
19-20	Mrs. G. E. Furnell (Ivanhoe Park)	42-43	No Competition
20-21	Mrs. S. Woods (Auburn Heights)	43-44	No Competition
21-22	Mrs. G. E. Porter (Canterbury)	44-45	Mrs. Weedon (Ivanhoe Park)
22-23	Mrs. H. Lamborn (East Camberwell)	45-46	Mrs. G. Morris (Black Rock)
23-24	Mrs. F. Sinclair (Glenferrie Hill) Mrs.	46-47	J. V. Horne (Ivanhoe Recreation)
24-25	Mrs. S. Orlo Smith (Glenferrie Hill)	47-48	Mrs. A. R. Forbes (Glen Hill)
25-26	Mrs. L. H. Madeley (Caulfield Park)	48-49	Mrs. C. C. Parkin (Elwood)
26-27	Mrs. F. Millett (Elsternwick)	49-50	Mrs. Fotheringham (Warleigh)
27-28	Mrs. N. W. Robertson (Glenferrie Hill)	50-51	Mrs. Bladen (Caulfield Recreation)
28-29	Mrs. H. Hemmingway (East Brunswick)	51-52	Mrs. Batson (Williamstown)
29-30	Mrs. H. S. Chambers (Ivanhoe Recreation)	52-53	Mrs. Voumard (Brighton)
30-31	Mrs. G. Little (Ivanhoe Recreation)	53-54	Mrs. G. G. Barrow (Collingwood)
31-32	Mrs. R. L. Keig (Williamstown)	54-55	Mrs. A. M. Peck (Ivanhoe Recreation)
32-33	Mrs. A. Billson (Alphington)	55-56	Mrs. E. Forbes (Canterbury)
33-34	Mrs. Baker (Collingwood)	56-57	Mrs. T. L. Gall (Ivanhoe Recreation)
34-35	Mrs. Baner (Ringwood)	57-58	Mrs. W. Ham (Ivanhoe Recreation)
35-36	Mrs. J. Edwards (Dandenong)	58-59	Mrs. K. Deppeller (Mentone)
36-37	Mrs. McLaughlan (Elwood)	59-60	Mr. T. Fowle (Elsternwick)
37-38	Mrs. Marriott (Glen Iris)	60-61	Mrs. Dellar (Essendon)
38-39	Miss McCombe (Caulfield Recreation)	61-62	Mrs. Wallace (Traralgon)
39-40	Mrs. Isaac (Brighton Beach)	62-63	Mrs. Whithers (Euroa)
40-41	Mrs. T. J. Browne (Essendon)		

"Cyril J. Miller" Gold Medal

26-27	Miss J. Evans (Brighton)	32-33	Mrs. A. B. Challen (Elsternwick)
28-29	Mrs. E. James (Auburn Heights)	33-34	Mrs. R. Burton (Aberfeldie)
27-28	Mrs. J. H. Paterson (Elsternwick)	34-35	Miss L. Brain (Auburn Heights)
29-30	Mrs. C. Purdie (Brighton)	35-36	Mrs. T. M. Osborne (Auburn Heights)
30-31	Mrs. P. E. Tenny (Glen Hill)	36-37	Mrs. Barton (Caulfield Recreation)
31-32	Mrs. P. Smith (Melbourne)	38-39	Miss Pitt (Caulfield Recreation)

President's Trophy

38-39	Mrs. Clarkson (Caulfield Recreation)	41-42	No Competition
39-40	Mrs. H. S. Chambers (Ivanhoe Recreation)	42-43	Miss D. Pakes (Auburn Heights)
40-41	Miss Gleadow (Glen Iris)		

Mrs. Knell Trophy

29-30	Miss Wilmoth (Auburn Heights)	34-35	Miss L. Brain (Auburn Heights)
30-31	Mrs. Orlo Smith (Glen Hill)	35-36	Mrs. Clarkson (Caulfield Recreation)
31-32	Mr. T. D. Anderson (Warleigh)	36-37	Mrs. Barton (Caulfield Recreation)
32-33	Miss M. I. Craig (Warleigh)	37-38	Mrs. Verey (Caulfield Recreation)
33-34	Mrs. G. Harris (Caulfield Recreation)	38-39	Miss Pitt (Caulfield Recreation)

The Wharton Shaw Trophy

39-40	Miss Stubbs (Caulfield Recreation)	49-50	Mrs. Cummock (Mentone)
40-41	Mrs. A. V. McLaughlin (Elwood)	50-51	Mrs. Woollard (Kew)
41-42	Miss L. Jones (Coburg)	51-52	Mrs. Sibley (Elsternwick)
42-43	No Competition	52-53	Mrs. G. Davey (Elsternwick)
43-44	No Competition	53-54	Mrs. H. D. Galbraith (Auburn Heights)
44-45	Mrs. J. B. Wilks (Auburn Heights)	54-55	Mrs. C. Voumard (Brighton)
45-46	Mrs. J. W. Clarke (Auburn Heights)	55-56	Mrs. A. Forbes (Glenferrie Hill)
46-47	Miss D. Pakes (Auburn Heights)	56-57	Mrs. E. Melling (Elsternwick)
47-48	Mrs. J. Smith (Brighton)	57-58	Mrs. D. Hillier (Collingwood)
48-49	Mrs. N. Gill (Auburn Heights)	58-59	Mrs. Braithwaite (Hawthorn)

Junior A "Florence Greenham" Trophy

47-48	Mrs. W. J. McGregor (Heidelberg)	51-52	Mrs. Cummick (Mentone)
48-49	Mrs. J. Rodger (Caulfield Park)	52-53	Mrs. Vessey (Kew)
49-50	Mrs. Semken (Black Rock)	53-54	Mr. T. Howat (Brunswick)
50-51	Mrs. Semken (Black Rock)		

The Croquet Association Silver Medal

44-45	Mrs. H. Gunther (Caulfield Recreation)	54-55	Mrs. A. P. Taylor (Ivanhoe Recreation)
45-46	Mrs. A. Goode (Hawthorn)	55-56	Mrs. Jackson (Elwood)
46-47	Mrs. H. McIntosh (Collingwood)	56-57	Mrs. C. Dodd (Brighton)
47-48	Mrs. A. Kerr (Coburg)	57-58	Mrs. E. Forbes (Canterbury)
48-49	Mrs. J. K. Robilliard (Glenferrie Hill)	58-59	Mrs. R. Philp (Ivanhoe Park)
49-50	Mrs. E. J. Michaelson (Elsternwick)	59-60	Mrs. E. Peters (Heidelberg)
50-51	Mrs. L. Cohen (Coburg)	60-61	Mr. T. Fowle (Elsternwick)
51-52	Mrs. G. Davey (Elsternwick)	61-62	Mrs. George (Wangaratta)
52-53	Mrs. J. Webb (Ivanhoe Recreation)	62-63	Mrs. Mitchell (Brighton)
53-54	Mrs. G. A. Tilley (Ivanhoe Recreation)		

"A. Glen Roberts" Gold Medal

50-51	Mrs. A. B. Challen (Elsternwick)
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"A. Glen Roberts" Trophy

51-52	Mrs. F. Baner (Glen Iris)
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"A. Glen Roberts" Memorial Trophy

54-55	Mrs. K. Sibley (Elsternwick)	64-65	Mrs. Elliott (Coburg)
55-56	Mrs. C. Voumard (Brighton)	65-66	Mr. Moebus (Brunswick)
56-57	Mrs. S. Taylor (Heidelberg)	66-67	Mrs. Withers (Euroa)
57-58	Mrs. R. McDonald (Collingwood)	67-68	Mrs. Ross (Euroa)
58-59	Mrs. C. Dodd (Brighton)	68-69	Mrs. Russell (Kyabram)
59-60	Mr. C. Rogers	69-70	Mrs. V. Crane (Traralgon)
60-61	Mrs. Wood (Euroa)	70-71	Mrs. Horsburgh (Glenferrie Hill)
61-62	Mrs. Clark (Ringwood)	71-72	Mrs. Currigan (Coburg)
62-63	Mrs. Tennant (Tatura)	72-73	Mrs. Currigan (Coburg)
63-64	Mrs. Hughes (Essendon)	73-74	Mrs. Airey (Brighton)

7. CURRENT V.C.A. TROPHY EVENTS

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The V.C.A. presented perpetual silver cups for Senior A level competition in open singles, open doubles and ladies singles events from the 1915/16 season to date. Mr. T. Howat won the open singles twelve times over a period of twenty-five years. The open singles and doubles are open to interstate players.

WREN MEMORIALS

Mr. C. W. Wren was the first patron of the V.C.A. He was for many years president of Melbourne Club. Following his death in 1934, his family donated perpetual silver cups in his memory. They have been given from 1935/36 season to date for Senior A singles and doubles handicap events except 1961 and 1964 when withdrawn for Association Doubles.

TREGELLAS TROPHY

A yearly medal donated by Mrs. J. C. Tregellas, V.C.A. vice-president and secretary of Canterbury, has been given from 1940/41 season to date for level singles competition between Junior A representatives of metropolitan clubs and country associations.

E. and B. TERRY. TROPHIES

Mr. Eric and Mrs. Bess Terry were members of Melbourne. When Mr. Terry passed away Mrs. Terry, then of Glen Iris, donated trophies in his memory. After Mrs. Terry's death, the family donated money to continue the provision of the trophies. They are perpetual silver dishes given for B grade 5 ¹/₂ to 7 bisques, and for C grade 10 to 12 bisques. They have been given from 1942/43 to date.

OLIVE LILLY TROPHIES

Mrs. O. Lilly, president of V.C.A. and president of Glen Iris, was always interested in new players. When she realized that new comers to Band C grades were not catered for, she instituted handicap events for B grade 7 ¹/₂ to 9 ¹/₂ (now 9) bisques, and C grade 13 to 15 bisques, to be held in conjunction with the Terry events. After Mrs. Lilly's death her husband supplied funds for this fixture to be held in perpetuity. The trophies are perpetual silver trays given from 1955/56 to date.

AUSTRALIAN CROQUET COUNCIL'S GOLD MEDAL

Following its formation in 1949, the A.C.C. presented a gold medal to each state for competition between selected Senior A players. It has been awarded from 1951/52 season to date. A condition is that the winners must be prepared to attend the next Interstate carnival to compete for the English Silver Medal. The number of selected players has varied over the years. It was 10 in the 1979/80 season. Bars are given for multiple wins. Mr. T. Howat has won the gold medal 10 times.

MILLICENT SCHOFIELD TROPHY

Part of a bequest from the will of Mrs. M. Schofield, of Glenferrie Hill, V.C.A. treasurer from 1940 to 1951, was used by V.C.A. for memorial trophies for a Junior A handicap singles competition from 1959/60.

A. NELSON MEDALS

Mrs. A. Nelson, of Seddon and Essendon, was a president of V.C.A., a vice-president of A.C.C., an A.C.C. advisory councillor, Victorian delegate to A.C.C., and for many years V.C.A. correspondent to A.C.C. She gave medals for level competition in B grade and C grade between representatives of metropolitan clubs and country associations. After her death the family continued the events to perpetuate her memory. The medals have been given from 1963/64 season to date.

JUNIOR A, B GRADE AND C GRADE LADIES' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Perpetual silver cups have been awarded by V.C.A. since 1970/71 season for Junior A ladies' championship and B grade ladies' championship, and from 1972/73 for C grade ladies' championship events.

SILVER MEDAL

Since 1971/72 season the V.C.A. has given a silver medal for level competition between selected Senior A players who show potential.

GOLD CENTENARY

In 1951, the centenary of the discovery of gold in Victoria, the Victorian Government gave bronze plaques for the state championships.

RESULTS OF CURRENT V.C.A. TROPHY EVENTS

State Championships

	Open Singles	Open Doubles	Ladies
15-16	Mr. A. Bonville Were, J.P.	Mrs. J. W. Stranger and Mr. H. Birchnell	Mrs. J. W. Stranger
16-17	Mr. E. Terry	Mrs. J. T. Hogarth and Mr. C. W. Wren	Miss Morrison
17-18	Mr. E. Terry	Mrs. J. T. Hogarth and Mr. C. W. Wren	Mrs. E. Terry
18-19	Mrs. F. C. Jeffrey	Mrs. J. C. Slatter and Mr. W. P. Vine	Mrs. F. C. Jeffrey
19-20	Mrs. E. G. Brook	Mrs. E. G. Brook and Mrs. E. Terry	Mrs. F. C. Jeffrey
20-21	Mrs. C. J. Miller	Mrs. E. Terry and Mr. Terry	Mrs. F. C. Jeffrey
21-22	Mr. C. J. Miller	Mrs. C. J. Miller and Mr. C. J. Miller	Mrs. G. Allen
22-23	Mr. W. T. McCleery	Mrs. F. C. Jeffrey and Mr. A. Glen Roberts	Mrs. E. G. Brook
23-24	Mr. W. T. McCleery	Mrs. F. C. Jeffrey and Mr. A. Glen Roberts	Mrs. G. Allen
24-25	Mr. C. J. Miller	Mrs. R. Carnm and Mr. G. A. Stephen	Mrs. E. G. Brook

	Open Singles	Open Doubles	Ladies
25-26	Mr. C. J. Miller	Mrs. C. J. Miller and Mr. C. J. Miller	Mrs. C. J. Miller
26-27	Mr. C. J. Miller	Mrs. F. C. Jeffrey and Mr. J. C. Windsor	Mrs. C. J. Miller
27-28	Mr. J. C. Windsor	Mrs. F. C. Jeffrey and Mr. J. C. Windsor	Mrs. G. T. Prescott
28-29	Mr. C. J. Miller	Miss A. B. Morrison and Mr. J. C. Windsor	Mrs. R. Carnm
29-30	Mr. C. J. Miller	Mrs. C. J. Miller and Mr. C. J. Miller	Mrs. C. J. Miller
30-31	Mr. J. C. Windsor	Mrs. C. J. Miller and Mr. C. J. Miller	Mrs. C. J. Miller
31-32	Mr. J. C. Windsor	Miss A. B. Morrison and Mr. J. C. Windsor	Mrs. C. J. Miller
32-33	Mrs. C. J. Miller	Mr. C. J. Miller and Mr. E. M. Hunt	Mrs. E. Terry
33-34	Mr. J. C. Windsor	Mr. C. J. Miller and Mr. E. M. Hunt	Mrs. E. Terry
34-35	Mr. J. C. Windsor	Miss A. B. Morrison and Mr. J. C. Windsor	Mrs. E. Terry
35-36	Mr. C. J. Miller	Miss A. B. Morrison and Mr. J. C. Windsor	Miss A. Morrison
36-37	Mr. C. J. Miller	Miss A. B. Morrison and Mr. J. C. Windsor	Miss A. Morrison
37-38	Mrs. G. R. Cooper	No Competition	Miss M. I. Craig
38-39	Mr. J. C. Windsor	Miss A. B. Morrison and Mr. J. C. Windsor	Mrs. G. R. Cooper
39-40	Mr. E. M. Hunt	Miss A. B. Morrison and Mr. J. C. Windsor	Mrs. A. B. Challen
40-41	Mr. J. C. Windsor	Miss A. B. Morrison and Mr. J. C. Windsor	Miss A. Morrison
41-42	Mrs. F. Baner	Mrs. G. R. Cooper and Mrs. H. Hagen	Mrs. G. R. Cooper
42-43	Miss M. I. Craig	No Competition	Miss M. I. Craig
43-44	Mrs. G. R. Cooper	Mrs. L. Brain and Mrs. R. C. Edwards	Miss M. I. Craig
44-45	Mrs. F. Baner	Mrs. A. B. Challen and Mrs. T. W. George	Mrs. T. W. George

	Open Singles	Open Doubles	Ladies
45-46	Mrs. R. C. Edwards	Mrs. C. J. Miller and Mr. D. Miller	No Competition
46-47	Mr. D. Miller	Mrs. C. J. Miller and Mr. D. Miller	Miss A. Morrison
47-48	Miss Pakes	Miss D. Pakes and Col. A. E. Saalfield	Mrs. R. C. Edwards
48-49	Miss D. Pakes	Mrs. A. B. Challen and Mrs. R. C. Edwards	Mrs. L. Jones
49-50	Mrs. F. Baner	Miss A. Morrison and Major R. Tingey	Miss A. Morrison
50-51	Mr. H. O. Hicks (Eng.)	Mr. H. O. Hicks (Eng.) and Mr. J. Solomon (Eng.)	Miss D. Pakes
51-52	Mrs. F. Baner	Mrs. Whitelaw and Mr. T. D. Anderson	Mrs. A. B. Challen
52-53	Mr. E. Hunt	Mrs. F. Baner and Miss D. Pakes	Mrs. A. B. Challen
53-54	Mrs. F. Baner	Mrs. R. C. Edwards and Mrs. A. V. McLaughlin	Mrs. R. Webb
54-55	Mr. T. Howat	Mrs. F. Baner and Miss D. Pakes	Mrs. G. Edwards
55-56	Mrs. F. Baner	Mrs. Baner and Miss Pakes	Miss D. Pakes
56-57	Mr. T. Howat	Miss F. Mackay and Miss Burne	Miss A. B. Morrison
57-58	Mr. T. Howat	Mrs. Baner and Miss Pakes	Mrs. Harrison
58-59	Miss D. Pakes	Mrs. Baner and Miss Pakes	Mrs. G. Edwards
59-60	Mrs. M. Harrison	Mrs. McGregor and Mrs. Taylor	Mrs. G. Edwards
60-61	Mrs. M. Harrison	Mrs. Baner and Mrs. Macdermid	Mrs. M. Harrison
61-62	Mrs. E. Baner	Mrs. Baner and Mrs. Macdermid	Mrs. M. Harrison
62-63	Mr. T. Howat	Mrs. Baner and Mrs. Macdermid	Mrs. M. Gazzard
63-64	Mrs. M. Harrison	Mrs. Baner and Mrs. Gazzard	Mrs. M. Harrison

	Open Singles	Open Doubles	Ladies
64-65	Mr. C. Rogers	Mrs. Rogers and Mr. Rogers	Mrs. Merrylees
65-66	Mr. T. Howat	Mrs. G. Edwards and Mrs. H. Merrylees	Mrs. M. Harrison
66-67	Mr. T. Howat	Mrs. P. Harrison and Mr. C. Rogers	Mrs. H. Merrylees
67-68			Mrs. H. Merrylees
68-69	Mr. T. Howat	Mrs. G. Edwards and Mr. C. Rogers	Mrs. M. Harrison
69-70	Mr. C. Rogers	Mrs. G. Edwards and Mr. C. Rogers	Mrs. H. Merrylees
70-71	Mrs. M. Heyme	Mr. Howat and Mr. Mason	Mrs. H. Merrylees
71-72	Mrs. V. Crane	Mr. Howat and Mr. Mason	Mrs. G. Edwards
72-73	Mr. T. Howat	Mr. Howat and Mr. L. Mason	Mrs. B. Dodd
73-74	Mrs. V. Crane	Mrs. V. Crane and Mr. B. Russell	Mrs. V. Crane
74-75	Mr. B. Russell	Mrs. V. Crane and Mr. B. Russell	Mrs. V. Crane
75-76	Mr. T. Howat	Mrs. V. Crane and Mr. B. Russell	Mrs. G. Edwards
76-77	Mr. T. Howat	Mrs. B. Dodd and Mrs. G. Edwards	Mrs. B. Dodd
77-78	Mr. T. Howat	Mrs. B. Dodd and Mr. R. Sloane	Mrs. B. Dodd
78-79	Mr. R. Sloane	Mr. Moebus and Mr. McDonald	Mrs. G. Edwards
79-80	Mr. T. Howat	Mrs. B. Dodd and Mrs. R. Livock	Mrs. G. Edwards

The Wren Memorials

Singles

35-36 Mrs. J. S. Powell
36-37 Mrs. W. Thornton
37-38 Miss Wilmoth
38-39 Miss J. Gibson
39-40 Mrs. L. Brain
40-41 Mrs. F. Baner
41-42 Mrs. G. R. Cooper
42-43 Mrs. T. W. George
43-44 Mrs. G. R. Cooper
44-45 Mrs. A. Challen
45-46 Mrs. R. C. Edwards
46-47 Mrs. T. D. Anderson
47-48 Miss D. Pakes
48-49 Mrs. L. Jones
49-50 Mrs. G. Clark
50-51 Mrs. McGregor
51-52 Mrs. Rodger
52-53 Mrs. F. H. Barr
53-54 Mrs. T. Dall
54-55 Mrs. P. J. Jensen
55-56 Mrs. F. Baner
56-57 Mrs. G. Clark
57-58 Mrs. Macdermid
58-59 Mr. C. Burrows
59-60 Mrs. M. Harrison
60-61 Mrs. M. Harrison
61-62 Mrs. M. Harrison
62-63 Mrs. H. Merrylees
63-64 Mrs. C. Rogers
64-65 Mr. C. Rogers
65-66 Mrs. M. Heyme
66-67 Miss I. Orrnston
67-68 Mrs. M. Gazzard

Doubles

Miss A. B. Morrison and Miss N. Burne
Mrs. W. Thornton and Mrs. Clarkson
Miss Wilmoth and Miss Price
Mrs. W. Thornton and Mrs. Clarkson
Mrs. R. J. Webb and Mr. A. G. Roberts

Mrs. G. R. Cooper and Mrs. H. Hagen

Mrs. L. Brain and Mrs. R. C. Edwards
Mrs. R. C. Edwards and Mrs. E. Rockcliff
Mrs. C. J. Miller and Mrs. D. Miller
Mrs. T. D. Anderson and Mrs. E. Harris
Mrs. Sunderland and Miss M. Price
Mrs. W. B. Green and Mrs. E. Harris
Mrs. A. Challen and Mrs. Webb
Mrs. McGregor and Mrs. Rodger
Mrs. J. McCartney and Mrs. Semken
Mrs. McGregor and Mrs. McCartney
Mrs. G. Campbell and Mrs. H. A. Middleton
Mrs. W. D. Macdermid and Mrs. J. L. Coxhell
Mrs. Dall and Mrs. Semken
Mrs. Devine and Mrs. Harrison
Mrs. Macdermid and Mrs. Bethune
Miss Mackay and Mrs. Hatherley
Mrs. Devine and Mrs. M. Harrison
Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Devine

Mrs. Bence and Mrs. M. Whitford
Mrs. H. Jones and Mrs. H. Merrylees
Mrs. Angus and Mrs. Livock

Mrs. Gazzard and Mr. C. Rogers

Singles

68-69	
69-70	Mrs. N. Dodd
70-71	Mrs. L. Mason
71-72	
72-73	Mrs. V. Peters
73-74	Mr. T. Howat
74-75	Mrs. J. Currigan
75-76	Mrs. Dodd
67-77	Mr. T. Howat
77-78	Mrs. J. Sloane
78-79	Mr. W. Fry
79-80	Mr. J. Summers

Doubles

Mr. and Mrs. T. Howat
Mrs. E. Berridge and Mr. H. Goldby
Mrs. V. Peters and Mr. A. Fowle
Mrs. G. Edwards and Mr. B. Russell
Mrs. J. Currigan and Mrs. T. Robinson
Mrs. W. Wilby and Mr. L. Moebus
Mr. and Mrs. T. Howat
Mrs. Dodd and Mrs. Sloane
Mrs. B. Davison and Miss J. Cosstick
Mr. T. Howat and Mr. A. Ford

Terry Trophies**B Grade**

42-43	Mrs. G. Mciver (Auburn Heights)
43-44	Mrs. Hoffman (Elsternwick)
44-45	Mrs. M. E. Cherry (Glen Iris)
45-46	Miss D. Pakes (Auburn Heights)
46-47	Mrs. H. McIntosh (Collingwood)
47-48	Mrs. Webster (Essendon)
48-49	Mrs. S. B. Nottle (Warleigh)
49-50	Mrs. L. Bradley (Brunswick)
50-51	Mrs. Cock (Glen Iris)
51-52	Mrs. Galbraith (Auburn Heights)
52-53	Mrs. James (Glen Iris)
53-54	Mrs. R. Saunders (Dandenong)
54-55	Mrs. S. Taylor (Heidelberg)
55-56	Mrs. Tattam (Kew)
56-57	Mrs. Houghton (Kew)
57-58	Mrs. D. Hartwig (Essendon)
58-59	Mrs. Heyme (Seddon)
59-60	Mrs. Ham (Ivanhoe)
60-61	Mrs. V. Millar (Seddon)

C Grade

Mrs. W. G. Wright (Heidelberg)
Mrs. A. Wallish (Caulfield Recreation)
Mrs. N. Smith (Auburn Heights)
Mrs. E. Springett (Ringwood)
Miss I. Harling (Auburn Heights)
Mrs. J. L. Cox hell (Caulfield Recreation)
Mrs. Pratt (Auburn Heights)
Mrs. Doak (Ivanhoe Recreation)
Mrs. Barnes (Coburg)
Mrs. Hay (Kew)
Mrs. H. Houghton (Coburg)
Mrs. M. Dawson (Ivanhoe Recreation)
Mrs. R. Mason (Coburg)
Mrs. J. Heyme (Seddon)
Mrs. Bolitho (Brighton)
Mrs. Perrett (Warleigh)
Mrs. Hauser (Frankston)
Mrs. Dixon (Dandenong)

B Grade

61-62	Mrs. V. Millar (Seddon)
62-63	Mrs. Stork (Dandenong)
63-64	Mrs. Morrison (Dandenong)
64-65	Mrs. T. Peters (Brighton)
65-66	Mr. Robinson (Warleigh)
66-67	Mrs. Cooper (Brighton)
67-68	Mrs. D. Marvin (Sandringham)
68-69	Mrs. Peters (Sale)
69-70	Mr. C. Anderson (Warleigh)
70-71	Mrs. Knight (Brighton)
71-72	No Competition
72-73	No Competition
73-74	Mrs. Crossley (Brighton)
74-75	Mrs. M. Martin (Brighton)
75-76	Mr. W. Fry (Brighton Beach)
76-77	Mrs. E. Hamshaw (Warleigh)
77-78	Mrs. Kittelty (Sunshine)
78-79	Mrs. M. Atherton (Warleigh)
79-80	Mrs. M. Mattison (Williamstown)

C Grade

Mrs. Leithart (Ivanhoe Recreation)
Mrs. Hetherington (Glen Iris)
Mrs. Watson (Brighton Beach)
Mrs. Cooper (Brighton)
Mrs. McBean (Sunshine)
Mrs. McBean (Sunshine)
Mrs. Purcell (Brighton)
Mrs. Jackson (Frankston)
Mrs. Francis (Sandringham)
Mrs. Cook (Caulfield Recreation)
Mrs. Fry (Brighton Beach)
Mrs. Cargill (Brighton)
Mrs. E. Beverley (Glen Iris)
Mr. G. Thorburn (Heidelberg)
Mrs. Golding (Sandringham)
Mrs. D. Webber (Glen Iris)
Mrs. D. Hutchison (Sandringham)
Mrs. N. Cunningham (Warleigh)
Miss H. Govan (Elwood)

Olive Lilly Trophies**B Grade**

55-56	Mrs. Dodd (Brighton)
56-57	Mrs. B. J. Taylor (Warleigh)
57-58	Mrs. Forster (Ringwood)
58-59	Mr. R. Mason (Coburg)
59-60	Mrs. Heron (Warleigh)
60-61	Mrs. Gall (Ivanhoe Recreation)
61-62	Mrs. Stork (Dandenong)
62-63	Mrs. Seddon (Ringwood)
63-64	Mrs. English (Sandringham)
64-65	Mrs. Leonard (Sandringham)

C Grade

Mrs. W. Hosking (Dandenong)
Mrs. A. Palstra (Caulfield Park)
Mrs. V. Coghlan (Frankston)
Miss Matthews (Brighton Beach)
Mrs. Ashley (Ivanhoe Park)
Mrs. McIntosh (Essendon)
Mrs. Mitchell (Kew)
Mrs. Davison (Brighton)
Mrs. Eddison (Auburn Heights)
Mrs. Morton (Essendon)

B Grade

65-66	Mrs. Larkham (Brighton)
66-67	Mrs. Clerke (Sunshine)
67-68	Mrs. Tracey (Brighton Beach)
68-69	Mrs. Edgar (Springvale)
69-70	Mrs. Fletcher (Elsternwick)
70-71	Mrs. Giersch (Glen Iris)
71-72	Miss Taylor (Brighton)
72-73	Mrs. O. Beddison (Glen Iris)
73-74	Mrs. Hoare (Elsternwick)
74-75	Mrs. Purcell (Brighton)
75-76	Mrs. J. Summers (Brunswick)
76-77	Mr. D. Staley (Ringwood)
77-78	Mrs. L. Squire (Glen Iris)
78-79	Mr. B. Cunningham (Warleigh)
79-80	Mrs. Goff (Dandenong)

A. Nelson Medals**B Grade**

63-64	Mrs. J. McDonald (Essendon)
64-65	Mrs. Layther (Elwood)
65-66	Mr. Robinson (Warleigh)
66-67	Mrs. L. Green (Glenferrie Hill)
67-68	Mrs. McInnes (Caulfield Park)
68-69	Mrs. Wilby (Coburg)
69-70	Mrs. Andrewartha (Seddon)
70-71	Mr. Roberts (Springvale)
71-72	Mr. Rae (Warleigh)
72-73	Mrs. Battensby (Warleigh)
73-74	Mrs. Sloane (Brighton Beach)
74-75	Mrs. Middleton (Glenferrie Hill)
75-76	Mr. I. Summers (Brunswick)
76-77	Mr. D. Staley (Ringwood)
77-78	Mrs. E. Cleeland (Glen Iris)
78-79	Mr. G. Latham (Essendon)
79-80	Mr. I. Doherty (Brighton)

C Grade

Mrs. Clerke (Sunshine)
Mrs. Hembrow (Glen Iris)
Mrs. Francis (Sandringham)
Mrs. Fenshaw (Sandringham)
Mrs. G. Baker (Brighton)
Mrs. Gibson (Heidelberg)
Mrs. O. Beddison (Glen Iris)
Mrs. Ward (Sandringham)
Mrs. Tann (Ringwood)
Mrs. J. Bourke (Springvale)
Mr. J. Exell (Warleigh)
Mrs. A. Morrison (Brighton Beach)
Mr. S. Harmer (Dandenong)
Mrs. P. Baldwin (Brighton Beach)

C Grade

Mrs. A. Anderson (Ivanhoe Park)
Mrs. Butch (Coburg)
Mrs. Wilby (Aberfeldie)
Mrs. King (Heidelberg)
Mrs. Jackson (Frankston)
Mrs. Coombs (Shepparton)
Mrs. Lowe (Ringwood)
Mrs. Delves (Kew)
Mrs. Oakes (Springvale)
Mrs. Leighton (Dandenong)
Mrs. Walker (Brunswick)
Mrs. Cleeland (Glen Iris)
Mr. D. Staley (Ringwood)
Mrs. M. Fuller (Williamstown)
Mrs. Robertson (Frankston)
Mrs. N. Cunningham (Warleigh)
Mr. D. Harvey (Phillip Island)

Tregellas Trophy

40-41	Mrs. F. Baner (Glen Iris)	59-60	Mrs. Whitford (Caulfield Recreation)
41-42		60-61	Mrs. A. Herron (Warleigh)
42-43		61-62	Mrs. Forster (Auburn Heights)
43-44		62-63	Mrs. Humphrey (Brighton)
44-45	Mrs. A. Thomson (Elwood)	63-64	Mrs. Sabelberg (Heidelberg)
45-46	Mrs. W. McIntosh (Auburn Heights)	64-65	Mrs. Bolitho (Brighton)
46-47	Mrs. W. 1. McGregor (Heidelberg)	65-66	Mrs. Wain (Geelong)
47-48	Mrs. I. Rodger (Caulfield Park)	66-67	Mrs. Wallace (Traralgon)
48-49	Mrs. I. Rodger (Caulfield Park)	67-68	Mrs. Davison (Brighton)
49-50	Mrs. Gunther (Caulfield Park)	68-69	Mrs. Albury (Warleigh)
50-51	Mrs. R. Ivey (Elwood)	69-70	Mrs. V. Peters (Elsternwick)
51-52	Mrs. Skingley (Collingwood)	70-71	Mrs. Steward (Terang)
52-53	Mrs. A. McKendrick (Essendon)	71-72	Mrs. Barber (Korumburra)
53-54	Mrs. A. McKendrick (Essendon)	72-73	
54-55	Mrs. S. Kirkbridge (Elwood)	73-74	
55-56	Mrs. E. Rowe (Auburn Heights)	74-75	Mr. C. Anderson (Warleigh)
56-57	Mrs. V. Smith (Auburn Heights)	75-76	Mrs. N. Rolls (Dandenong)
57-58	Mrs. I. Lane (Auburn Heights)	76-77	Mr. I. Summers (Brunswick)
58-59	Mrs. A. Pratt (Auburn Heights)	77-78	Mr. D. Staley (Ringwood)
		78-79	Mr. I. Boschetti (Shepparton)
		79-80	Mr. G. Latham

Millicent Schofield

59-60	Mr. L. Mason (Brunswick)	69-70	Mr. C. Anderson (Warleigh)
60-61	Mrs. E. Peters (Heidelberg)	70-71	Mr. Russell (Brunswick)
61-62	Mrs. Herron (Warleigh)	71-72	
62-63	Mrs. Short (Warleigh)	72-73	
63-64	Mrs. Heyme (Seddon)	73-74	Mrs. Graham (Seddon)
64-65	Mrs. Thomas (Elwood)	74-75	
65-66	Mrs. Wain (Geelong)	75-76	Mrs. Porritt (Brunswick)
66-67	Mrs. Deutchman (Essendon)	76-77	Mr. W. Fry (Elwood)
67-68	Mrs. Davison (Brighton)	77-78	Miss M. Coxall (Frankston)
68-69	Mrs. Kennedy (Elsternwick)	78-79	Mrs. E. Beverley (Glen Iris)
		79-80	Mrs. L. Squire (Glen Iris)

Junior A Ladies Championship

70-71	Mrs. Barber (Springvale)	74-75	
71-72		75-76	
72-73	Mrs. Doherty (Brighton)	76-77	Mrs. P. Hanna (Elsternwick)
73-74	Mrs. Wood (Shepparton)	77-78	Mrs. Retallick (Essendon)
		78-79	Miss M. Coxall (Frankston)
		79-80	Mrs. E. Beverley (Glen Iris)

B Grade Ladies Championship

70-71	Mrs. Roberts (Springvale)	75-76	Miss J. Taylor (Brighton)
71-72	Mrs. Palmer (Sandringham)	76-77	Mrs. Retallick (Essendon)
72-73	Mrs. Crossley (Brighton)	77-78	Mrs. M. Martin (Brighton)
73-74	Mrs. Hamshaw (Warleigh)	78-79	Mrs. J. Dexter (Glen Iris)
74-75	Mrs. Grieve (Maroopna)	79-80	Mrs. R. Branson (Springvale)

C Grade Ladies Championship

72-73	Mrs. Hillard (Williamstown)	76-77	Mrs. D. Hutchison (Sunshine)
73-74	Mrs. Robbins (Sandringham)	77-78	Mrs. E. Horsey (Warleigh)
74-75	Mrs. Bailey (Brighton)	78-79	Mrs. A. Brown (Springvale)
75-76		79-80	Miss A. Spence (Warleigh)

Silver Medal

71-72	Mr. B. Russell (Brunswick)	75-76	Mrs. G. Barber (Korumburra)
72-73		76-77	Mrs. S. Heaver (Portland)
73-74	Mrs. H. Williams (Sale)	77-78	Mr. L. Moebus (Essen/Brunswick)
74-75	Mr. R. Sloane (Sandringham)	78-79	Mrs. E. Pike (Ballarat)
		79-80	Mr. R. Reuter (Elwood)

A.C.C. Gold Medal

51-52	Mrs. A. B. Challen (Elsternwick)	65-66	Mr. T. Howat (Coburg)
52-53	Miss A. B. Morrison (Glenferrie Hill)	66-67	Mr. T. Howat (Coburg)
53-54	Mrs. R. C. Edwards (Glen Iris)	67-68	Mr. C. Rogers (Sandringham)
54-55	Mrs. F. Baner (Glen Iris)	68-69	Mr. T. Howat (Coburg)
55-56	Mr. E. Hunt (Sandringham)	69-70	Mr. C. Rogers (Sandringham)
56-57	Mr. T. Howat (Brunswick)	70-71	Mr. T. Howat (Coburg)
57-58	Miss D. Pakes (Glen Iris)	71-72	Mr. B. Russell (Brunswick)
58-59	Mrs. G. Edwards (Shepparton)	72-73	Mr. T. Howat (Coburg)

59-60	Mrs. M. Harrison (Bendigo)	73-74	Mr. B. Russell (Brunswick)
60-61	Mrs. F. Baner (Glen Iris)	74-75	Mrs. V. Crane (Morwell)
61-62	Mrs. M. Harrison (Bendigo)	75-76	Mr. T. Howat (Coburg)
62-63	Mrs. M. Harrison (Bendigo)	76-77	Mr. T. Howat (Coburg)
63-64	Mr. T. Howat (Coburg)	77-78	Mr. R. Sloane (Sandringham)
64-65	Mrs. F. Baner (Glen Iris)	78-79	Mrs. G. Edwards (Shepparton)
		79-80	Mr. T. Howat (Coburg)

ADDITIONAL V.C.A. FIXTURES

Aberfeldie Tournament

When the Aberfeldie Club (1911-1969) closed, the members gave \$300 to the V.C.A. for trophies for an annual tournament to be held north of the Yarra. The club felt that, ever since the purchase of V.C.A. headquarters at North Brighton, too many V.C.A. fixtures were scheduled for south of the Yarra, disadvantaging the players from north of the river. The tournament has been held annually since the 1970/71 season with level and handicap events in four divisions.

Weekend Tournaments

Throughout the 70's the V.C.A. has run weekend tournaments for the benefit of business men and women for whom handicap reduction poses a problem, based as it is on play in tournaments which are usually conducted through the week. Advantage is taken of the regulation that allows handicap reductions to be made on two and a half hour games if in a weekend tournament. Often the event is organized on the XYZ principle, and occasionally doubles are included. Entry is not limited to business people.

Men's Tournament

Since 1969/70, the men's group has organized a tournament for men only. From 1969/70 to 1976/77 it comprised A handicap and B/C handicap singles, but since the 1977/78 season there have been Senior A, Junior A, B and C handicap singles events. Perpetual silver cups are awarded.

Veterans' Day

In 1978 the V.C.A. introduced veterans' badges which are available to clubs for presentation to players with twenty-five years' affiliation with the V.C.A. Since then an annual veterans' day has been held.

Country and Metropolitan Champions' Day

In 1978 a special day was introduced when the regional champions and runners-up were pitted against players from the metropolitan area. The latter were not necessarily the winners of V.C.A. trophy events, as none of these are limited to metropolitan players and the successful players are often from the country clubs. So the city representatives were selected players. Each player had one singles and one doubles. The event proved popular and was repeated in 1979. It became a two-day event in 1980 so that country associations who were not included in the regional championships could participate.

Results

1978 Country six games Metropolitan six games.

1979 Country seven games Metropolitan five games.

1980 Country eleven games Metropolitan nine games.

8. HANDICAPPING

CLUB HANDICAPS

Prior to 1914 players were handicapped by their clubs. This is still permissible, but the handicap can be used only within the club. Very few clubs allot club handicaps.

STANDARDIZATION

When the V.C.A. was formed, it soon became apparent that standardization of handicaps had to take top priority. After 1914 clubs sent their recommendations to the V.C.A., where they were considered by the Laws, Fixtures and Handicap Sub-Committee consisting of Mrs. J. Parsons (Auburn Heights), Mrs. J. W. Stranger (Brighton), and Mr. C. W. Wren (Melbourne, Brighton and Auburn Heights). By 1917 the enormity of the task was evident, and these three were relieved of the Laws and Decisions aspect.

The 1916/17 Croquet Annual published a list of metropolitan, Bendigo and Ballarat players with their handicaps. There were altogether seventeen minus and scratch players, the lowest being Mr. J. Tuckett and Mr. E. Terry, both of Melbourne Club, on -3. Geelong players were included in the 1923/24 Croquet Annual, but from then on the lists contained only metropolitan players.

The difficulty of handicapping country players caused concern for many years. In 1922 the V.C.A. announced that it could not standardize the handicaps of players in country clubs until two of the best players in each club had competed in some open metropolitan tournament. By 1930 it was decided that handicaps would be given to all country players who entered Country Week. For this reason Country Week became very popular, entries of four hundred or five hundred being not uncommon.

The Handicap Committee also accepted the recommendations for handicap reductions sent by the managers of country open tournaments, as by that time Country Week had been so successful in bringing country players to the notice of the Handicap Committee that a standard had been established. It is now not necessary for any country player to visit the city for a handicap reduction.

In 1925 it was decided that metropolitan pennant players who had played in two thirds of the matches would be given reductions retrospective to the 1924/25 season. In 1926 four grades were experimented with in pennant, and in 1927 a definite cut-off point was made and Junior A grade introduced.

Two of the V.C.A. events had carried automatic promotion to the next grade. The Croquet (English) Association Silver Medal for B grade carried a guarantee of promotion to A grade, and the A. Bonville Were Medal for C grade carried a guarantee of promotion to B grade. At the end of the 1936/37 season a reduction of two bisques for the winner was substituted in both cases. Complying with recommendations from A.C.C., a change was made in the cut-off point between Band C grades in 1952, and in 1979 the four grades were re-labelled as Division 1,2,3 and 4. No $\frac{1}{2}$ bisque reductions have been made on handicaps over 8 since 1979.

In 1954, while Country Week country players were accepted for reductions the calibre of metropolitan players was examined before a decision was made. Metropolitan players who won open tournaments in the country were for many years not considered for reductions. But in 1973 it was decided that the Handicap Committee would use its discretion if the tournament was a large one.

In 1970 the country associations were asked to send recommendations for reductions. Clubs have the right to reduce their players to 12 bisques according to their appraisal of ability, with the approval of the Handicap Committee. From 12 bisques on, players must earn their reductions in open tournaments. There is so much interest taken in tournaments that the Handicap Committee is kept busy. In the 1970/71 season they made three hundred and thirty six metropolitan reductions and four hundred and fifty reductions to country players, and in 1978/79 four hundred metropolitan and four hundred and twenty country reductions were made.

Reductions in Victoria are made mainly on the results of open tournaments. A player whose handicap is over 12 may be reduced one bisque by the manager after his first game. In special circumstances a player may be reduced to 11 but only with the approval of the Handicap Committee. All other reductions are made by the Handicap Committee after consideration of the manager's recommendations, the number of entries, the results, the time taken in matches and the breaks made, together with, where possible, their own observations of the standard of play. The members of the Committee visit as many tournaments as practicable. Only those tournaments held under the auspices of the V.C.A. are considered for handicapping purposes.

The lowest handicap ever given in Victoria is - 5. There are only four players who were considered worthy of this honour:

Mr. J. C. Windsor (Melbourne), Mr. T. Howat (Coburg), Mr. E. Hunt (Sandringham) and Mrs. V. Crane (Morwell).

Two chairmen of Handicap Committees who were influential over long periods were Mr. C. J. Miller (Warleigh) and Mrs. H. Jones (Coburg).

DIVISIONS

1920 A: Minus to 4, B: $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 9, C: 10 to 17.

1927 Senior A: Scratch and under, Junior A: $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5, B: 6 to 10, C: 11 to 17.

1936 Senior A: Scratch and under, Junior A: $\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$, B: 5 to 10, C: 11 to 17.

1941 Senior A: Minus to $1\frac{1}{2}$, Junior A: 2 to $4\frac{1}{2}$, B: 5 to 10, C: 11 to 17.

1942 Senior A: Minus to $1\frac{1}{2}$, Junior A: 2 to 5, B: $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 10, C: 11 to 17.

1952 Senior A: Minus to $1\frac{1}{2}$, Junior A: 2 to 5, B: $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$, C: 10 to 16.

1979 Division 1: Minus to $1\frac{1}{2}$, Division 2: 2 to 5, Division 3: $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 9, Division 4: 10 to 16.

9. METROPOLITAN PENNANT

A major project of the newly formed V.C.A. was the organization of a pennant competition for metropolitan clubs. The first Fixtures Committee consisted of Mrs. R. Gilbert Aberfeldie, Canterbury and Melbourne), Mrs. Prendergast (Elsternwick), Mrs. Knell (Ivanhoe Recreation), Mrs. Ruck (Melbourne), Mrs. Wharton-Shaw (Glenferrie Hill) and Mr. N. H. Richards (Melbourne). In the 1914/15 season twelve clubs took part, three in A grade, nine in B grade, and twelve in C grade. Melbourne won the A grade, Malvern and Caulfield (later Caulfield Recreation) the B grade, and East Camberwell the C grade.

Pennant rules were published for the first time in the 1920/21 Croquet Annual. Teams of four played two doubles. At the end of the home and home round of matches an extensive series of finals was played. If there was one section the top four teams played off, and if there were two sections the top two teams in each section played. If the team that had been ahead in the home and home round was defeated, it had the right to challenge in a grand final.

In those days play did not start until 1.00 p.m., continuing until 5.30 p.m. in B and C grades. The A grade started at 1.30 p.m. and the matches were played to a finish. Afternoon matches were the rule until the 1940's.

By the 1922/23 season the idea of finals had been dropped. The additional extra point for a win had been introduced, and the time extended to 6.30 p.m.

In the 1923/24 season a novel system was introduced. There were finals, but these points were added to the home and home points for the final result. That year the new club, Warleigh, had such a runaway victory in A grade that, according to the annual report, "interest in the section was considerably discounted". In the next season there were finals, but only if a difference of ten marks or less separated the two leading teams in A grade, five in Band C. In this season two gentlemen were permitted per team, and they could play as partners. There is no such restriction at the present date.

In the 1926/27 season the A grade was divided into two grades, though without a clear cut off point, the teams being selected on specified aggregate handicap lines. The idea proved successful, and in the following season a Junior A grade with a specific cut off point was introduced. The four grades were used from then on except between 1935/36 and 1945/46.

Up till 1938/39 any associated club could take part. Ballarat came to the city for a week during 1921/22 to participate. After 1938/39 participation was limited to clubs within twenty-five miles of the G.P.O. In 1955 it was extended to twenty-six miles.

Certain teams have had outstanding success. In the early days the clubs competed for a fine shield. But the Melbourne A team had so many consecutive wins that it became their absolute property in the early '20's. Heidelberg had the distinction of winning three sections, Senior A, Junior A and C grade, in 1960/61, while Dandenong won three sections, Junior A, Band C grades, in 1964/65. Ivanhoe Park won the Junior A section in three consecutive years 1977/78, 1978/79, 1979/80.

In 1927 a Lawns Supervisory Committee consisting of Mrs. Coghill (Auburn Heights), Mrs. R. Burton (Auburn Heights and Warleigh) and Mr. C. J. Miller (Warleigh and Melbourne) was found necessary to see that the standard of lawns was satisfactory for pennant. In that year a pennant was awarded as well as the shield inscription. The rule was made that only those who had played in an open tournament were eligible.

No shield has been awarded since 1929/30 season. A runner-up flag was given in 1956/57.

Over the years the method of arriving at the winner has see-sawed between finals and no finals, with finals being the most popular method. In most cases, if the teams played in the one section the pennant would be awarded to the top team, but if there were two sections the two winners played off.

In 1973/74 singles as well as doubles were played in Senior A grade, players being paired

according to handicaps. Singles were re-introduced in 1979/80 season for the Senior A grade. Double balls are used for the singles.

In 1970/71 and 1972/73 the time-on period was included, but has not been played since. All matches are of two hours duration, finishing on the bell. Play begins at 10.30 a.m.

In the 1955/56 season eleven Senior A teams, eighteen Junior A teams, twenty-seven B grade teams and twenty-seven C grade teams took part. In the 1979/80 season there were twelve Senior A teams, thirteen Juniors A's, seventeen B's and twelve Cs. Clubs are permitted to enter two teams in B grade, two in C grade, but only two overall in Senior and Junior A grades as few clubs have more than two A lawns.

The pennant season usually lasts from September till April.

Among the members of the Fixtures Committees who gave many years service to the organization of pennant and all other V.C.A. fixtures were Mrs. Wharton Shaw (Glenferrie Hill), Mrs. W. McGregor (Heidelberg), and Mrs. McKendrick (Essendon, then Williamstown).

RESULTS OF METROPOLITAN PENNANT COMPETITION

	A	B	C
14-15	Melbourne	Malvern and Caulfield	East Camberwell
15-16	Melbourne	Brighton	Ivanhoe Recreation
16-17	Brighton	Glenferrie Hill	Brighton Beach
17-18	Melbourne	Melbourne	Brighton
18-19	Melbourne	Auburn Heights	Brighton
19-20	Melbourne	Brighton	Brighton
20-21	:Melbourne	Brunswick	Mentone
21-22	Brighton	Brighton	Mentone
22-23	Melbourne	Brighton	Sandringham
23-24	Warleigh	Aberfeldie	Sandringham
24-25	Melbourne	Glenferrie Hill	Caulfield Recreation
25-26	Warleigh	Warleigh	Caulfield Recreation

	Senior A	Junior A	B	C
26-27	Warleigh	Melbourne	Brighton	Elsternwick
27-28	Brighton	Auburn Heights	Caulfield Recreation	Canterbury
28-29	Melbourne	Brighton	Auburn Heights	Warleigh
29-30	Warleigh	Glenferrie Hill	East Camberwell	Warleigh
30-31	Melbourne	Glenferrie Hill	Aberfeldie	Caulfield Recreation
31-32	Melbourne	Melbourne	Caulfield Recreation	East Camberwell
32-33	Melbourne	Melbourne	Ivanhoe Recreation	Essendon

	Senior A	Junior A	B	C
33-34	Melbourne	Auburn Heights	Coburg	Coburg
34-35	All Pennant Competitions were abandoned for the Centenary Year.			
35-36	Warleigh	Auburn Heights	Ivanhoe Recreation	
36-37	Warleigh	Collingwood	Glen Iris	
37-38	Warleigh	Glen Iris	Coburg	
38-39	Aberfeldie	Alphington	Alphington	
39-40	Melbourne	Alphington	Auburn Heights	
40-41	Elwood	Heidelberg	Brunswick	
41-42	Elwood	Glen Iris	Heidelberg	
42-43	Elwood	Melbourne	Brunswick	
43-44	Melbourne	Auburn Heights	Sandringham	
44-45	Sandringham	Melbourne	Essendon	
45-46	Warleigh	Glen Iris	Collingwood	
46-47	Warleigh	Essendon	Warleigh	Essendon
47-48	Glen Iris	Essendon	Heidelberg	Collingwood
48-49	Glen Iris	Black Rock	Auburn Heights	Caulfield Recreation
49-50	Glen Iris	Heidelberg	Heidelberg	Kew
50-51	Elsternwick	Warleigh	Mentone	Coburg
51-52	Elsternwick	Kew	Mentone	Brighton Beach
52-53	Elsternwick	Warleigh	Glenferrie Hill	Coburg
53-54	Glen Iris	Caulfield Recreation	Auburn Heights	Essendon
54-55	Glen Iris	Brighton	Dandenong	Coburg
55-56	Sandringham	Elwood	Brighton	Auburn Heights
56-57	Sandringham	Caulfield Recreation	Auburn Heights	Lilydale
57-58	Glen Iris	Collingwood	Ringwood	Auburn Heights
58-59	Glen Iris	Auburn Heights	Ivanhoe Recreation	Dandenong
59-60	Sandringham	Kew	Warleigh	Warleigh
60-61	Heidelberg	Heidelberg	Auburn Heights	Heidelberg
61-62	Glen Iris	Ringwood	Dandenong	Ivanhoe Park
62-63	Elwood	Dandenong	Brighton	Essendon
63-64	Coburg	Dandenong	Aberfeldie	Heidelberg
64-65	Coburg	Dandenong	Dandenong	Dandenong
65-66	Sandringham	Essendon	Coburg	Coburg
66-67	Auburn Heights	Brighton	Brighton	Frankston

	Senior A	Junior A	B	C
68-69	Coburg	Elsternwick	Glenferrie Hill	Frankston
69-70	Coburg	Heidelberg	Brighton	Heidelberg
70-71	Coburg	Brunswick	Frankston	Brighton
71-72	Sandringham	Brunswick	Ivanhoe Recreation	Heidelberg
72-73	Brunswick	Glen Iris	Brunswick	Frankston
73-74	Brunswick	Essendon	Williamstown	Glen Iris
74-75	Elsternwick	Springvale	Essendon	Frankston
75-76	Sandringham	Essendon	Essendon	Sandringham
76-77	Essendon	Essendon	Brunswick	Williamstown
77-78	Brunswick	Ivanhoe Park	Williamstown	Brunswick
78-79	Brunswick	Ivanhoe Park	Elwood	Williamstown
79-80	Essendon	Ivanhoe Park	Sandringham	Elwood

SOCIAL PENNANT

Until the middle 1960's, clubs could enter only one team in each grade. As some clubs had an abundance of Band C players, Mrs. I. Howat (Ivanhoe Park) organized a competition for northern clubs in the 1961/62, 1962/63, 1963/64 and 1964/65 seasons. Brunswick, Coburg, Aberfeldie, Kilmore, Seddon, Ivanhoe Recreation, Kew and Sunshine took part, playing for cups. As soon as the V.C.A. permitted two teams to enter a grade, the social pennant was discontinued.

10. COUNTRY WEEK

On the formation of the V.C.A., one of the biggest problems was how to bring the country clubs into the organization. Their number was far greater than that of the city clubs, but they had no organized communication with either the city or each other.

Contact was first made with Ballarat in the 1915/16 season, when two matches were arranged between Ballarat City and visiting Melbourne teams. After the formation of the Ballarat Association in 1918 and the Geelong Association in 1921 contact was easier, and from 1921 the V.C.A. sent teams to country areas and invited teams to visit the city. Geelong and Brunswick exchanged visits. Ballarat was invited to participate in metropolitan pennant in the 1921/22 season. The team stayed in Melbourne for a week and played each team in the section over that period. Annual visits were arranged between Ballarat and the city. During Easter 1926 the V.C.A. team's visit resulted in a win for the city twenty-three matches (eight hundred and sixty-three points) to nineteen (eight hundred and fifteen points). All Ballarat greens were used.

THE FIRST COUNTRY WEEK

In 1927 the first Country Week was held. Geelong, Ballarat and Gippsland Associations sent representative A and B teams, and ten country clubs sent two representatives each of scratch and over. A press release in the Age, March 3 1927 stated: "The first country week arranged by the V.C.A. has come and gone, and on all sides it has been admitted the experience has been a huge success. Visiting players have expressed the wish that the fixture should become an annual one."

However, there was criticism in Council. The individual events had proved unsatisfactory

because of unequal handicapping, and the question of standards was raised. So "teams only" was the suggestion for the next year. The records show that Country Week was held in 1929 but not in 1930.

HANDICAP EVENTS DECIDED

In 1931 it was decided that the programme would consist of a doubles handicap tournament for country pairs versus city pairs, and that handicaps would be given to all country players who took part in the event. The secretary, Mr. C. J. Miller, managed the event until 1938, and since he was, at that period, the handicapper, he had great influence in bringing country players' handicaps in line with the city. The opportunity to gain an official handicap was a great incentive to clubs to affiliate with the V.C.A. so that their players could enter Country Week. Many country associations formed during those years. In 1933 there were four hundred entries, and in 1947 the event had to be cancelled as the number of entries, five hundred and fifty-one, was too great to handle. The interest was sustained right through the 1950's, with five hundred and thirteen entries and four hundred on-lookers reported in 1953, five hundred and forty-seven entries in 1955, and a peak of five hundred and fifty-two entries in 1956. In 1957 it was decided that country players who entered Country Week would be eligible for all association events except the Silver and Bronze Medals. These latter were to be open to the country association champions in Band C grades, the grades for which these were awarded in that period.

Up till this time, Country Week was one of the few opportunities that country players had to reduce their handicaps, as there were few country tournaments. But from then on there was a great increase in the number of country open tournaments, these being accepted by the V.C.A. Handicap Committee for handicap reductions, and the interest in Country Week waned in direct proportion to this increase. In the 1980 event there were one hundred and sixty-one entries including forty-nine country players.

FORMAT OF MATCHES

The Country Week format has varied over the years. In 1937 singles were introduced with the doubles. And in 1954 a new feature was introduced, a knock-out competition between teams of four A players from each country association for the Price Cup, donated by Mrs. K. Price of Ballarat Alexandra Club. That year it was competed for by the Geelong, Ballarat and East Gippsland Associations, being won by Geelong. In 1957 teams entered from Geelong, East Gippsland, Goulburn Valley, Gippsland, Mildura, Murray Valley, and the newly formed Bendigo and District Association. From 1958 there were no team events. Instead, a Senior A singles was introduced, and the Price Cup was given for this. The Price Cup was competed for each year until the Regional Championships began in 1964. The format of handicap singles in four grades, Division 1, 2, 3 and 4, still obtains at date. Each host club is given a manageable number of players of one grade, and a medal is awarded to the winner of each lawn. These winners compete at V.C.A. headquarters on the final day.

THE BURNING BALL

It is not usual for a croquet happening to be considered news worthy. But one such incident took place during a Country Week match at Glen Iris in 1955, and was reported in the city press. Mr. Charlie Burrows, Drouin Club, was playing in a match in which one of the players was obviously smoking. As Mr. Burrows approached his ball in his new turn, it suddenly burst into flames. It had been for some time lying on a discarded cigarette butt! In those days balls were covered with cellulose, and this cover had burnt through to the cork core. A press photographer took a photograph of the smoking ball, and this appeared in the paper the following day. The ball itself was presented to the governor, Sir Dallas Brooks, who was present at the lawns that day.

INTERSTATE PARTICIPATION

Over the years the official attitude to interstate participation in Country Week has fluctuated. At some stages interstate players were required to be members of V.C.A. affiliated clubs in order to enter. In 1977 the matter was finally resolved and from that date the event was open to them.

COUNTRY WEEK RESULTS

45-46	(A)	Mrs. Woolard (Kew)	(B)	Mrs. Herron (Sale)
			(C)	Mrs. Nelson (Morwell)
46-47				
48-49	(A)	Mrs. Wedlich (Bendigo)	(B)	Mrs. Hoal (Stawell)
			(C)	Mrs. Cleaver (Shepparton)
49-50	(A)	Miss Gibbs (Tatura)	(B)	Mrs. Neary (Auburn Heights)
			(C)	Mrs. Elsbury (Heathcote)
50-51	(A)	Mrs. Burrows (Drouin)	(B)	Mrs. Lavers (Geelong)
			(C)	Mrs. Shephard (Shepparton)
51-52	(A)	Mrs. Spiller (Portland)	(B)	Mrs. Waters (Sandringham)
			(C)	Mrs. Powling (Koroit)
52-53	(A)	Mrs. Gazzard (Ballarat)	(B)	Mrs. Webb (Ivanhoe Recreation)
			(C)	Mrs. Worcester (Merbein)
53-54	(A)	Mrs. Hardman (Moe)	(B)	Mrs. Jackson (Mentone)
			(C)	(Mrs. Powell (Kew)
54-55	(A)	Mrs. Rowe (Auburn Heights)	(B)	Mrs. Elsbury (Heathcote)
			(C)	Mrs. Garrett (Heathcote)
55-56	(A)	Mrs. M. Box (Dandenong)	(B)	Mrs. Garrett (Heathcote)
			(C)	Mrs. J. Campbell (Dandenong)
56-57	(A)	Mrs. W. Parry (Echuca)	(B)	Mrs. I Brennan (Koroit)
			(C)	Mrs. A. Wheeler (Warburton)
57-58	(S.A.)	Mrs. Gazzard (Ballarat)	(B)	Mrs. C. Rogers (Sandringham)
	(J.A.)	Mrs. Kennedy (Warrnambool)	(C)	Mrs. French (Wangaratta)
58-59	(S.A.)	Mrs. Gazzard (Ballarat)	(B)	Mrs. Abell (Warragul)
	(J.A.)	Mrs. M. Walsh (St. Arnaud)	(C)	Mrs. Loats (Donald)
59-60	(S.A.)		(B)	Mrs. Rhook (Korumburra)
	(J.A.)	Mrs. Kennedy (Warrnambool)	(C)	Mrs. Rogers (Heidelberg)
60-61	(S.A.)	Miss Simmie (Echuca)	(B)	(Mrs. Veale (Colac)
	(J.A.)	Mrs. Warry (Horsham)	(C)	Mrs. Coucell (Portarlington)
61-62	(S.A.)	Mrs. Daly (Koroit)	(B)	Miss Henry (Korumburra)
	(J.A.)	Mrs. English (Albury)	(C)	Mrs. Barber (Korumburra)

62-63	(S.A.)		(B)	Mrs. Stainkamph (Brunswick)
	(J.A.)	Mrs. Hucker (Dandenong)	(C)	Mrs. Iser (Bendigo)
63-64	(A)	Mrs. Angus (Belmont)	(B)	Mrs. Smith (Caulfield)
			(C)	Mrs. Burt (Dandenong)
64-65	(A)	Mrs. Shade (Heidelberg)	(B)	Mrs. Baker (Kilmore Park)
			(C)	Mrs. Simonech (Kyabram)
65-66	(S.A.)		(B)	Mrs. Rosewarne (Sunshine)
	(J.A.)	Mrs. Morrison (Dandenong)	(C)	Mr. Aurisch (Bairnsdale)
66-67	(S.A.)		(B)	Mr. Oliver (Kyneton)
	(J.A.)	Mr. Robinson (Warleigh)	(C)	Mrs. Lovett (Maryborough)
67-68		(cancelled - drought)	(B)	Mrs. Seidi (Euroa)
68-69	(A)	Mrs. V. Crane (Traralgon)	(C)	Mrs. Davey (Bendigo)
69-70	(S.A.)	Mrs. Greed (Hamilton)	(B)	Mrs. Hollard (A.C.T.)
	(J.A.)	Mrs. V. Crane (Traralgon)	(C)	Mrs. Saville (Shepparton)
70-71	(S.A.)	Mrs. V. Crane (Traralgon)	(B)	Mrs. Nicholas (Glen Iris)
	(J.A.)	Mrs. Clee (Jeparit)	(C)	Mrs. Grieve (Mooroopna)
71-72	(S.A.)	Mrs. V. Crane (Traralgon)	(B)	Mr. Price (Ballarat-Alexander)
	(J.A.)	Mrs. Currigan (Coburg)	(C)	Mr. McDonald (Essendon)
72-73	(S.A.)	Mrs. Wilby (Brunswick)	(B)	Mr. J. Tann (Ringwood)
	(J.A.)	Mrs. Doherty (Brighton)	(C)	Mrs. Bell (Ballarat)
73-74	(S.A.)	Mr. T. Howat (Coburg)	(B)	Mrs. McGinnis (Ivanhoe Park)
	(J.A.)	Mrs. Norton (Shepparton)	(C)	Mrs. Duck (Colac-SI. Andrews)
74-75	(S.A.)	Miss Cosstick (Brighton)	(B)	Mrs. N. Rixon (Glenferrie Hill)
	(J.A.)	Mrs. Grieve (Mooroopna)	(C)	Mrs. Pike (Ballarat)
75-76	(S.A.)	Mr. T. Howat (Coburg)	(B)	Mr. E. Walker (Brunswick)
	(J.A.)	Mr. E. Anderson (Ringwood)	(C)	Mrs. K. Boschetti (Shepparton)
76-77	(S.A.)	Mr. G. Thorburn (Heidelberg)	(B)	Mrs. K. Boschetti (Shepparton)
	(J.A.)	Mrs. Grieve (Mooroopna)	(C)	Miss J. Levens (Auburn Heights)
77-78	(S.A.)	Mr. B. Russell (Brunswick)	(B)	Mrs. Webber (Glen Iris)
	(J.A.)	Mrs. McLaren (Morwell)	(C)	Mr. S. Forster (13 yrs.) (Lismore)
78-79	(S.A.)	Mrs. Grieve (Mooroopna)	(B)	Mr. G. Allott (Dandenong)
	(J.A.)	Mr. C. Collins (Traralgon)	(C)	Mr. E. Cameron (Elwood)
79-80	(D.1.)	Mrs. Grieve (Mooroopna)	(D.3.)	Mr. R. Jones (Leongatha)
	(D.2.)	Mrs. L. Squire (Glen Iris)	(D.4.)	Mrs. M. Cook (Queenscliff)

11. COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS

EARLY INTERCITY COMPETITION

Intercity contests between Ballarat and Geelong were traditional in the early period. Then in 1937 Mr. H. A. Austin of Geelong Bareena Club gave the Austin Cup for a perpetual trophy for A grade competition between the two cities, and Mr. and Mrs. R. Engleby of Ballarat Victoria Club gave the Engleby Cup for B grade. In the 1979/80 season the first round matches were played in December in Ballarat and the return matches in January at Geelong. The Austin Cup was won by Ballarat, and the Engleby Cup by Geelong.

ADVANTAGES OF ASSOCIATIONS

The advantages of forming an association of district clubs in reasonable proximity for the purpose of interclub competition was first recognized by Ballarat in 1918, when they formed the Ballarat Association. This was followed by Geelong 1921, Gippsland 1924, Wimmera 1930, Goulburn Valley 1933, Warrnambool and District (later South Western) 1937, East Gippsland 1938, Mildura and District, Nyah District, Swan Hill (Murray Valley Association) 1948, Bendigo (later Northern District) 1956, and North Eastern 1960. Two of these associations, Mildura and Nyah, no longer function. All of the present associations, except Murray Valley and East Gippsland, organize a pennant competition. There is a special C Grade pennant competition "across the associations" between Lismore (Ballarat), Camperdown and Terang (South Western), and Colac (not affiliated with an association).

AFFILIATION

Whereas metropolitan clubs are associated only with V.C.A. and have no regional links, country clubs have direct affiliation with both the V.C.A. and with their district association. The district association is associated with the V.C.A. and sends delegates to the monthly V.C.A. council meetings. These delegates report back to the regularly held association meetings to which clubs send representatives. In 1980, the affiliation fee was \$2 per club.

CERTAIN V.C.A. EVENTS

Some of the V.C.A. events are neither open nor for selected players, but are limited to representatives from metropolitan clubs and country associations.

BALLARAT ASSOCIATION

On October 29 1918 a meeting convened by the City Club to consider the advisability of forming a croquet association was held at the City Hall. The foundation clubs were City, Ballarat, Western, Soldiers Hill, and Victoria. The foundation office bearers were Mrs. Palmer, President and Mrs. Miller, Secretary. A pennant competition was immediately organized. Singles and doubles in home and home matches are played from October to February. There is no final. Taking part in the 1979/80 season were Ballarat, Ballarat Alexandra, Ballarat Western, Ballarat City and Beaufort. The winners were: A grade—Alexandra, B grade—City and C grade—Ballarat. The Mowbray Shield, donated by Mrs. Mowbray while she was a professional coach in Ballarat, is competed for by the two best B's in each club in one match of doubles.

In the 1950/51 season the association held special Gold Centenary celebrations. Beginning on November 27 1978 a special open tournament was held to mark the association's sixtieth birthday.

From 1962 all clubs have lent their lawns to stage a yearly open tournament during Ballarat's

Begonia Festival. The 1979/80 office bearers were Mrs. Matters, President and Mrs. E. Roe, Secretary—Ballarat.

Lismore plays in the "across the associations" C grade pennant.

GEELONG ASSOCIATIONS

The Geelong Association was formed in 1921. The foundation office bearers were Mrs. Ritchie, President and Mrs. Forbes, Secretary. A pennant competition was immediately organized. Singles and doubles in home and home matches between teams of two players are played for three months. There are no finals. Taking part in the 1979/80 season were Geelong Bareena, Geelong Belmont, Geelong Eastern Park, Drysdale, Portarlington and Queenscliff. The winners were A grade—Eastern Park, B grade—Drysdale, C grade—Queenscliff.

An open tournament using the lawns of Bareena, Belmont and Eastern Park is held in connection with Geelong's Springding Carnival which was first held in 1979.

The 1979/80 office bearers were Mrs. I. Mulligan, President—Bareena, Mrs. J. Douglas, Secretary—Belmont.

GIPPSLAND ASSOCIATION

On October 7 1924 the Gippsland Association was formed at a meeting at the Warragul Club. The foundation clubs were Drouin, Warragul, Traralgon, Maffra, Sale and Bairnsdale. The foundation office bearers were President Mrs. Christenson—Traralgon and the Secretary Mrs. Morton. A pennant competition was immediately organized. Doubles in home and home matches are played for four months. Taking part in the 1979/80 season were Drouin, Sale, Korumburra, Warragul, Moe, Morwell, Traralgon, Leongatha, and Phillip Island playing on Leongatha's lawns. The winners were: A grade—Morwell, B grade—Leongatha, C grade—Moe.

All clubs except Phillip Island hold their own annual open tournaments or lend their lawns for association tournaments.

The 1979/80 office bearers were President, Mrs W. Wilson—Traralgon, Secretary, Mrs. J. Doble—Traralgon.

Foundation clubs Maffra and Bairnsdale became foundation members of the East Gippsland Association in 1938.

WIMMERA ASSOCIATION

The Wimmera Association was formed in 1930, the foundation clubs being Horsham, Natimuk, Dimboola, Murtoa, Warracknabeal, Nhill and Minyip. The foundation office bearers were: President, Mrs. J. Campbell—Warracknabeal, Secretary, Mrs. Moller—Dimboola. A pennant competition was immediately organized. Teams consist of four players playing doubles in home and home matches with finals between the two top teams. Taking part in the 1979/80 season were Horsham Botanical Gardens, Horsham Kalimna Park, Kaniva, Rainbow, Beulah, Donald and Warracknabeal, and the winners were A grade—Warracknabeal, B grade—Warracknabeal.

Donald holds an annual open tournament.

The 1979/80 office bearers were President, Mrs. H. Bath—Donald, Secretary, Mrs. D. Campbell—Donald.

GOULBURN VALLEY ASSOCIATION

At a meeting held at Tatura in 1933 it was decided to form the Goulburn Valley Association. The foundation office bearers were: President Mrs. R. Pigdon—Tatura, Secretary Mrs. Wilson—Tatura. A pennant competition was started immediately, the foundation clubs being Shepparton, Rushworth, Tatura and Kyabram, the winner in that 1933/34 season being Tatura on points from Shepparton. It is played from September to December by teams of four with home and home matches consisting of singles and doubles. Taking part in the 1979/80 season were Echuca, Euroa, Kyabram, Mooroopna, Nagambie and Shepparton. The winner was Shepparton in A grade, B grade and C grade.

Shepparton holds an annual open tournament, A grade during Easter and B/C grades earlier in the season.

The 1979/80 office bearers were: President, Mrs. R. Wood—Shepparton, Secretary, Mrs. M. Grieve—Mooroopna.

SOUTH WESTERN ASSOCIATION

On December 3 1937 the Warrnambool and District Association was formed. The foundation clubs were Warrnambool City, Warrnambool Christ Church, Warrnambool Wesley, Warrnambool St. John's and Koroit. The foundation office bearers were: President, no record, Secretary, Mrs. Hatfield - Christ Church. A pennant competition was started immediately. It consists of home and home matches between teams of four or two playing doubles, and the season lasts from October to December, with no finals. When Portland and Hamilton joined in 1972 and played in pennant the following season, it was decided to change the name to South Western Association. This was done in 1973.

Taking part in the 1979/80 season were Warrnambool City, Warrnambool Christ Church, Koroit, Hamilton and Portland. The winners were Division 1—Portland, Division 2—Hamilton, Division 3—Hamilton.

Camperdown and Terang play in the "across the associations" C grade pennant.

Hamilton, Koroit, Portland, Warrnambool City and Warrnambool Christ Church either hold annual open tournaments or lend their lawns for association tournaments.

The 1979/80 office bearers were: President, Mrs. S. Heaver—Portland, Secretary, Mrs. R. Gibson—Koroit. Casterton joined the association in 1978.

EAST GIPPSLAND ASSOCIATION

The East Gippsland Association was formed in 1938. The foundation office bearers were: President Mrs. Cartledge, Secretary Mrs. Trimble. There is no pennant. The member clubs are Bairnsdale, Maffra, Sale St. Paul's, and Yarram. Bairnsdale holds an annual open tournament. The office bearers for the 1979/80 season were President, Mrs. D. Thaxton—Bairnsdale, Secretary, Mrs. N. L. Hibbins—Maffra.

MURRAY VALLEY ASSOCIATION

In 1948 the Murray Valley Association was formed at a meeting held at the Swan Hill Club, the foundation clubs being Swan Hill, Swan Hill North Park, and Nyah. Foundation office bearers were: President, Mrs. Pearse—Nyah, Secretary—Mrs. L. Chisholm—Swan Hill. Two New South

Wales clubs have been members: Barham Border Club 1951 to 1972, and Hay 1956 to 1968. The current members are Cohuna, Kerang, Sea Lake, Swan Hill City, Swan Hill North Park and Charlton. There is no current Murray Valley Association pennant competition as such. Swan Hill City, Swan Hill North Park and Sea Lake play in an A grade competition for the Mathieson Trophy. Certain clubs from the Murray Valley and Wimmera Associations together with some of the non-associated clubs formed the Kara Kara Group for purposes of regular competition. This group has functioned for many years, and has included Charlton, Donald, Wycheproof, St. Arnaud, Sea Lake and Boort. There are two sections, one for A and B players, the other for C players.

The Murray Valley Association holds tournaments on the lawns of Swan Hill City and Swan Hill North Park. The 1979/80 office bearers were: President, Mrs. E. Harrison—Charlton, Secretary, Mrs. C. Dew—Charlton.

NORTHERN DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

The Bendigo and District Croquet Association was formed in 1956. The foundation office bearers were President, Mrs. M. Harrison—Bendigo, Secretary, Mrs. J. Grellis. A pennant competition was immediately organized. In 1965, following the establishment of the Regional Championships and the entry of more associations, it was decided to change the name from Bendigo and District to Northern District Association.

Teams taking part in the 1979/80 pennant season were Bendigo, Bendigo Quarry Hill, Bendigo Golden Square, Heathcote, Castlemaine, Newstead, Kyneton and Eaglehawk. Clubs not taking part were Maldon and Maryborough V.R.1. Home and home matches consisting of doubles are played over a period of two months. The 1979/80 winner was Division 3—Castlemaine.

Annual open tournaments are held by Bendigo, Kyneton and Eaglehawk.

The 1979/80 office bearers were: President, Mrs. N. Mitchell—Eaglehawk, Secretary, Mrs. M. Bubb—Bendigo.

NORTH EASTERN ASSOCIATION

The North Eastern Association was formed in 1960. The foundation office bearers were: President Mrs. G. French—Wangaratta, Secretary Miss L. Lean—Yarrowonga. A pennant competition was immediately organized. Played from October to December, it consists of home and home matches between teams of four playing doubles. There are no finals. Taking part in the 1979/80 season were Albury, Albury Greenfield, Wangaratta and Yarrowonga. Two clubs not participating were Bright and the newly formed Beechworth. The 1979/80 winners were: A grade - Albury, B grade—Wangaratta, C grade—Yarrowonga. Until the 1979/80 season Wangaratta held an annual open tournament, with a month separating the A grade from the B/C grades events. The 1979/80 office bearers were: President Mrs. I. Cairnduff—Wangaratta, Secretary Mrs. J. Russell—Wangaratta.

NON-ASSOCIATED CLUBS

There are twelve clubs which, though affiliated with the V.C.A., are not affiliated with a district association: Coleraine, Ararat, Kilmore, Merbein, Red Cliffs, Stawell, Colac City, Colac St. Andrew's, Boort, Wycheproof, St. Arnaud and Casterton.

Colac plays in the independent C pennant competition. Red Cliffs holds an annual open tournament. Ararat held an open tournament in the 1979/80 season.

12. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

In 1964 the first regional championships took place at Bendigo. Following this successful event a meeting was held at the Bendigo Club between representatives of the following associations, Bendigo and District, Ballarat, Geelong and Goulburn Valley, to discuss the possibility of inter-association championships held annually. It was decided to organize these, first on an association basis between A, B and C champions of each club, then on a regional basis when the association champions would meet, the venue to circulate between the associations. It was first intended that they continue for three years, but they attracted such a large audience over the four day period, and had such a stimulating effect on competitive croquet in the country, that they have been held annually ever since. In 1965 the North Eastern Association and the Murray Valley Association joined in. It was then that Bendigo and District Association changed its name to Northern Association. From 1972 the regional championships were played in four grades Senior A, Junior A, B and C.

RESULTS OF REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Year	Venue		A Grade		B and C Grades
1964	Bendigo	(A)	Mrs. M. Harrison (Bendigo)	(B)	Mrs. J. Einsporn (Geelong)
				(C)	Mrs. M. Mark (Ballarat)
1965	Shepparton	(A)	Mrs. G. Edwards (Goulburn Valley)	(B)	Mrs. Carmichael (Northern)
				(C)	Mrs. Moodie (Geelong)
1966	Geelong	(A)	Mrs. G. Edwards (Goulburn Valley)	(B)	Mrs. Davis (Northern)
				(C)	Mr. A. Rowan (Geelong)
1967	Ballarat	(A)	Mrs. I. Rowe (Murray Valley)	(B)	Mrs. M. Hand (Murray Valley)
				(C)	Mrs. Bubb (Northern)
1968	Albury	(A)	Mrs. M. Gazzard (Ballarat)	(B)	Mr. R. Oliver (Northern)
				(C)	Mrs. J. Power (Geelong)
1969	Swan Hill	(A)	Mrs. French (North Eastern)	(B)	Mrs. Taylor (Northern)
				(C)	Mrs. Coombs (Goulburn Valley)
1970	Bendigo	(A)	Mrs. G. Edwards (Goulburn Valley)	(B)	Mrs. Shevlin (Northern)
				(C)	Mrs. Pryor (Ballarat)
1971	Shepparton	(A)	Mrs. H. Merrylees (Goulburn Valley)	(B)	Mrs. Bubb (Northern)
				(C)	Mrs. Saville (Goulburn Valley)
1972	Geelong	(S.A.)	Mrs. H. Merrylees (Goulburn Valley)	(B)	Mrs. Simonieck (Goulburn Valley)
		(J.A.)	Mrs. Ferguson (North Eastern)	(C)	Mrs. Grieve (Goulburn Valley)
1973	Ballarat	(S.A.)	Mrs. H. Merrylees (Goulburn Valley)	(B)	Mrs. Thomas (Ballarat)

Year	Venue		A Grade		B and C Grades
		(J.A.)	Mr. R. Oliver (Northern)	(C)	Mrs. B. Smith (Ballarat)
1974	Wangaratta	(S.A.)	Mrs. M. Gazzard (Ballarat)	(B)	Mrs. Bell (Ballarat)
		(J.A.)	Mrs. Bubb (Northern)	(C)	Mrs. Peel (Geelong)
1975	Swan Hill	(S.A.)	Mrs. G. Edwards (Goulburn Valley)	(B)	Mrs. Gidding (Murray Valley)
		(J.A.)	Mrs. Grieve (Goulburn Valley)	(C)	Mrs. Rimmington (Ballarat)
1976	Bendigo	(S.A.)	Mrs. G. Edwards (Goulburn Valley)	(B)	Mrs. E. Pike (Ballarat)
		(J.A.)	Mrs. Pryor (Ballarat)	(C)	Mrs. R. Murphy (Northern)
1977	Shepparton	(S.A.)	Mrs. G. Edwards (Goulburn Valley)	(B)	Mrs. Peel (Geelong)
		(J.A.)	Mrs. Barber (Geelong)	(C)	Mrs. McGrath (Murray Valley)
1978	Geelong	(S.A.)	Mrs. G. Edwards (Goulburn Valley)	(B)	Mrs. B. Hesketh (Geelong)
		(J.A.)	Mrs. E. Pike (Ballarat)	(C)	Mrs. M. McQualter (Goulburn Valley)
1979	Ballarat	(S.A.)	Mrs. H. Merrylees (Goulburn Valley)	(B)	Mrs. Hesketh (Geelong)
		(J.A.)	Mrs. N. Bell (Ballarat)	(C)	Mr. Robinson (Geelong)
1980	Wangaratta	(D.1)	Mrs. G. Edwards (Goulburn Valley)	(D.3)	Mrs. W. Heeps (Northern)
		(D.2)	Mr. R. Kerr (Goulburn Valley)	(D.4)	Mrs. J. Koch (Northern)

13. CLUB TOURNAMENTS

The first recorded tournaments are those reported in the social pages of the city press when, at the turn of the century, privately arranged contests on a large scale were organized in aid of charities. The first record of a tournament run by a club was in 1905 when the newly formed Melbourne Club ran its first championship.

The country press reported that Ballarat City held an open tournament in January 1909 in which the Ararat Club entered, and that in March 1909 the Ararat Club held its own tournament for a trophy donated by the Mayoress.

When the V.C.A. was formed during World War 1, earnest consideration was given to the question of continuing official tournaments. It was decided to do so. Through tournaments and other efforts, the metropolitan clubs raised £1,800 for the war effort.

In the 1916/17 season Melbourne, Brighton and Fairfield held open tournaments. The V.C.A. records do not include reference to country tournaments until the 1970's. But there were many country clubs functioning in the first decade of the century, and it is reasonable to assume that many tournaments were being held before the formation of the V.C.A. Many of these clubs were strong and with a sense of identity, as was shown when, at a V.C.A. Council meeting in 1922, the Warragul delegate protested that Brighton had taken their tournament date.

The first electric light tournament in the city was run by Warleigh in 1925. This was an annual event until 1934. In 1957/58 season Brunswick introduced its first electric light tournament. Such night tournaments are appreciated by businessmen and women.

Since 1951, schedules of all open tournaments must be approved by the V.C.A. Council. Managers of such tournaments may send in recommendations for handicap reductions.

Country tournaments usually last one week. Play starts at 8.00 a.m. and finishes sometimes as late as 7.00 p.m. Three "lives" are generally offered, usually two handicaps and one level, occasionally one handicap and two levels if time is limited. Most are singles events. Several clubs hold their A tournament separated by a period of time from their B/C tournament. This permits their own members to be free of kitchen duties while playing. Competitors are expected to be in attendance throughout the day as the draw is rarely advertised in the press. The catering at country tournaments is of very high standard. Many metropolitan players enter and have a pleasant croquet holiday. Many take advantage of the \$3 per day bed and breakfast accommodation that is often offered in compliance with a suggestion made by V.C.A.

City tournaments last up to three weeks. Play does not usually start before 9.30 a.m. or finish later than 5.00 p.m. Two "lives" are offered, one handicap and one level. All are singles events. The draw is advertised in The Age each day. Light refreshments are provided.

All matches were of two hours duration, finishing on the bell, except two and a half hour finals, until 1979, when the three hour match with the time-on period was introduced. Double balls are generally now used, especially in Division 1,2 and 3. Even prior to 1979 double balls were used in A grade in certain country tournaments.

There are so many tournaments each year that it is very rarely that an entry is refused.

The metropolitan clubs that hold regular open tournaments include Brighton, Brunswick, Coburg, Dandenong, Elsternwick, Elwood, Essendon, Frankston, Glen Iris, Glenferrie Hill, Ivanhoe Park, Ringwood, Sandringham, Seddon, Springvale, Sunshine, Warleigh and Williamstown.

The trophies played for in club tournaments are traditionally of a modest nature.

All open club tournaments are open to interstate players.

14. VICTORIANS IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

VICTORIA THE GOVERNING BODY

After the V.C.A. affiliated with the English Croquet Association in 1917, it acted as the governing body in Australia and was so recognized by the English Association. Also, at this period and for some years afterwards, Victoria was the strongest croquet state. Immediate attempts were

made to arrange a challenge match between the two countries, but it was not until 1924 that they were successful. Australia challenged England, England accepted the challenge, and a test series was arranged to take place in England in 1925. The V. C. A. contacted the other states, requesting nominees for the team. Queensland and New South Wales accepted the invitation, but later the N.S.W. nominee withdrew. Mrs. H. Dinsdale (Queensland) accompanied the team as reserve. The Victorian players were Mr. J. C. Windsor (Melbourne and Brighton) (Captain), Mr. W. T. McCleery (Auburn Heights and Melbourne), Mr. F. J. Crabb (Melbourne and Warleigh) and Mr. G. A. Stephen (Melbourne and Brighton). Membership of the 1925, 1927, 1930, 1935 and 1937 test teams consisted of Victorians only.

MACROBERTSON SHIELD

In February 1925 Mr. MacRobertson's offer of a handsome, silver mounted shield for international competition was accepted by the V.C.A. The shield was sent after the team, who had already arrived in England, and the rules for the competition were decided while they were there. Teams were in future to consist of four, five or six players, the visiting side to decide, each member playing one singles and one doubles. The fifth player in a team of five does not play doubles. Each country plays three test matches against every other participating country. When Mr. MacRobertson made his presentation, he was a member of Auburn Heights and Brighton. The MacRobertson Shield has stimulated interest in international competition from 1925 to date, the teams competing at intervals of irregular length, with a lapse of thirteen years over the World War 11 period. New Zealand competed for the first time in 1930. Australia did not compete in 1950 and 1956, nor did England in 1930, nor New Zealand in 1937. The shield has been competed for on eleven occasions, with England winning it six times, Australia three and New Zealand two. On most occasions it is won by the home team, as they have many obvious advantages, England being the only country to win while visiting. After the formation of the Australian Croquet Council in 1949, Victoria was no longer the governing body. The A.C.C. did not challenge until 1963, when a team was sent to New Zealand. From this time other states were represented, the number of players from Victoria gradually lessening. In 1969. when the test series was to be held in Melbourne. it was decided that all states would be included in the team and that all would play a game. A total of eleven players. including three Victorians, took part in the series. Until that time all tests but one had been won by the host country as they were in a position to field their best players. But in the 1969 series the host country came last. For all following tests it was decided by the A.C.C. to ask a selection committee to choose the best available players. The idea of state representatives has not been used since.

England's report after the 1969 series included the following reference to Mr. T. Howat, Victorian member of the team: "Tom Howat, perhaps the best long shot in the world now". The 1937 series is the only one to date in which three and eleven sixteenth inch hoops were used.

RESULTS OF INTERNATIONAL TESTS FOR MACROBERTSON SHIELD

Year	Venue	Participants	Winner	Details
1925	England	England, Australia	England	Eng. 3, Aust. 0
1927	Australia	England, Australia	Australia	Aust.1, Eng. 1, tied 1 (Aust. won on games 20-19)
1930	Australia	Australia, New Zealand	Australia	Aust. 3, N.Z. 0
1935	Australia	Australia, England, New Zealand	Australia	Aust. 4, Eng. 3, N.Z. 0 (two tied matches Aust. v Eng.)

Year	Venue	Participants	Winner	Details
1937	England	England, Australia	England	Eng. 5, Aust. 0
1950	New Zealand	England, New Zealand	New Zealand	N.Z. 2, Eng. 1
1956	England	England, New Zealand	England	Eng. 5, N.Z. 0
1963	New Zealand	Eng., N.Z., Aust.	England	Eng. 6, Aust. 2, N.Z. 1
1969	Australia	Eng., N.Z., Aust.	England	Eng. 6, N.Z. 3, Aust. 0
1974	England	Eng., N.Z., Aust.	England	Eng. 6, N. Z. 2, Aust. 1
1979	New Zealand	Eng., N.Z., Aust.	New Zealand	N.Z. 9, Eng. 0, Aust. 0

VICTORIANS SELECTED IN INTERNATIONAL TEST TEAMS

1925	Mr. J. C. Windsor (Captain), Mr. W. T. McCleery, Mr. F. J. Crabb, Mr. G. A. Stephen.
1927	Mr. C. J. Miller (Captain), Mrs. C. J. Miller, Mr. J. C. Windsor, Mr. W. T. McCleery.
1930	Mr. C. J. Miller (Captain), Mrs. C. J. Miller, Mr. W. T. McCleery, Mr. Witherow, Mr. F. J. Crabb.
1935	Mr. C. J. Miller (Captain), Mr. J. C. Windsor, Miss A. B. Morrison, Mr. E. Hunt, Mr. W. T. McCleery, Mrs. Terry.
1937	Mr. C. J. Miller (Captain), Mr. J. C. Windsor, Miss A. B. Morrison, Mr. E. Hunt.
1950	Australia did not participate.
1956	Australia did not participate.
1963	Mrs. M. Harrison, Mr. L. Mason.
1969	Mr. C. S. Rogers, Mr. T. Howat, Mrs. G. Edwards (team of eleven).
1974	Mr. B. Russell.
1979	Mr. R. Sloane.

INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

The first international tournament to coincide with the MacRobertson Shield contests was held in 1927 during the visit of the English team to Melbourne. The lawns of Auburn Heights, Brighton, Warleigh and Glenferrie Hill were used, with the finals played at Melbourne Club. The schedule specified Number Two setting (that is, one peg only instead of the two that had been used until 1922), Ayres championship balls, hoops three and three-quarter inches, singles two hours, doubles two and a half hours, finals played to a finish. There was a draw and a process. There were thirty-five entries. The tournament was managed by Mr. C. J. Miller.

FIRST NEW ZEALAND CHALLENGE

When the New Zealand team visited Australia in 1930 for their first MacRobertson Shield challenge, Melbourne made their first day a memorable one. The team arrived at 2.00 p.m. They were entertained at a luncheon which lasted from 2.30 p.m. until 5.00 p.m. From this they went to Warleigh for practice under electric lights, and at 10.00 p.m. they were given a lobster supper.

CENTENARY YEAR

Since 1935 was Centenary Year in Melbourne, the occasion was marked by special hospitality, and the V.C.A. gave a dinner at the Hotel Windsor to welcome the England and New Zealand MacRobertson Shield teams. It was reputed to be the largest number of representatives of ball games brought together to welcome international teams. There were one hundred and fifty people present. The menu comprised: Oyster Cocktail, Clear Turtle Soup, Filet of Whiting Suzet, Tournedos Rossini, Punch Romaine, Spring Chicken and Vegetables with Saratoga Chips and French Salad, Asparagus with Sauce Vinaigrette, Bombe Aida, Coffee. At the conclusion of the shield matches, the English Croquet Association and members of the English team gave a farewell party in honour of the V.C.A. The menu comprised: Huitres Portugaise, Consomme a la Tortue Claire, Sole Mornay, Selle de Pre Sale with Pommes Rissolees and Petit Pois; Papaw Melba au Kirsch, Cafe; Wines—Sherry, Sauterne, Cyder Cup, Corona Sherry, Van der Hum.

As well as being the occasion for the first triangular test series for the MacRobertson Shield, opportunity was taken to hold an unusually large International Tournament. In addition to the international croquet championship singles and doubles for minus players, there were open tournaments for four grades: A scratch to 5, B—6 to 10, C—11 to 14, and D—15 to 17. The D section was for the Centenary only, to give beginners confidence to enter competitive events. There were championship and handicap events in all grades. The A championship cup was won by Miss F. Mackay (Glenferrie Hill). Admission to the ground was by a Centenary Member's Medal specially struck for the occasion.

ORIGIN OF EIRE CUP

In August 1937, while visiting England for the MacRobertson Shield test series, the Australian team, comprising four Victorians, Mr. C. I. Miller (Warleigh) (Captain), Mr. I. C. Windsor (Melbourne), Miss A. B. Morrison (Melbourne) and Mr. E. Hunt (Warleigh), were invited to the Carrickmines Club, county Dublin, on the estate of Mr. Bertram O'Reilly, "Ballynamote". Carrickmines was a residential club, and the team stayed there as guests while they were in Ireland. They played a challenge match against Ireland, defeating them four matches to two, and thereby winning the Eire Cup, a silver rosebowl given by Mr. O'Reilly to be won outright. Ireland then challenged the team in tennis, but the Australian team won that also. The Eire Cup was brought back to Australia to the V.C.A. headquarters. The V.C.A. held it for Interstate Competition, changing its name to the Interstate Cup.

OVERSEAS SUCCESSES

Several Victorians won important events in England and Ireland while visiting Great Britain.

Mr. J. C. Windsor of Melbourne Club while in England with the 1925 MacRobertson test team, of which he was captain, won the Ranelagh Handicap, Bedford Open Singles, Cheltenham Open Singles, Wendelshem Open Singles and Block A Handicap.

Mrs. M. Gazzard of Ballarat Peel Street, while visiting England in 1965 at the invitation of Mr. Humphrey Hicks, won the Hurlingham Handicap Singles, and the Mixed Doubles with Mr. Hicks. She was invited to join the Top Six Women in the Ladies Field.

Mrs. B. Dodd of Brighton, while overseas in 1972 won the Cheltenham Doubles, and in 1973 the Coronation Cup Handicap Singles at Carrickmines Club, Dublin.

Mr. R. Sloane of Sandringham, while visiting England in 1974, won the Turner Cup Singles and Hurlingham Doubles, the Colchester Vase Singles, and the Challenge and Gilbey Doubles at

Budleigh Salterton, and was selected to play in the Spencer-Ell Cup invitation event for selected eight.

15. VICTORIANS IN INTERSTATE COMPETITION

The V.C.A. has been interested in interstate competition since its formation. There is record of play between state teams as far back as 1916. These were not easy to arrange, and it appears that it was difficult to persuade Melbourne players to travel interstate. In 1920 Victoria played South Australia. In 1922 an invitation came from Queensland telling about their open tournament in July. That was the start of the interesting croquet vacation that Victorians have enjoyed every winter since. South Australia suggested as far back as 1922 that an Australian croquet council be formed, but after due consideration Victoria opposed the suggestion, deeming the time to be not yet ripe.

When the Eire Cup was brought back by the 1937 MacRobertson Shield team, it was evident that it could lead to organized interstate competition, but at that point World War 11 intervened and the matches lapsed. In 1947 interstate delegates met to arrange a competition with the Eire Cup used as an Interstate Cup. One carnival was held in Sydney in 1948 under the auspices of New South Wales, and one in Brisbane in 1949 under the auspices of Queensland, the Victorian team winning the latter. It was in Brisbane in 1949 that the Australian Croquet Council was formed specifically to control all conditions pertaining to interstate competition. The A.C.C. does not control the affiliated States.

VICTORIANS WHO HAVE HELD POSITIONS WITH THE AUSTRALIAN CROQUET COUNCIL

The V.C.A. affiliated with the A.C.C. on its foundation, and over the years many Victorians have held office:

President

Miss A. B. Morrison 1957-60, Miss K. E. Burne 1963-66, Mrs. G. Edwards 1975-78.

Honorary Secretary

Mrs. V. Millar 1962-72. Mrs. E. Tann 1979 to date.

Honorary Treasurer

Miss K. E. Burne 1959-62, Miss P. Lewty 1979 to date.

Vice-President

Miss A. B. Morrison, Mrs. A. Nelson, Miss F. Mackay, Mrs. E. Pretty, Mrs. N. McInnes, Mrs. F. Hucker, Mrs. G. Edwards, Mrs. B. Dodd.

Advisory Councillor

Miss A. B. Morrison 1957-64, Mrs. A. Nelson 1964-69, Mrs. Pretty 1970-79, Mrs. G. Edwards 1966-75.

Laws Committee

Miss A. B. Morrison 1951-57, Miss K. E. Burne 1958, Mrs. W. McGregor 1953-58, Mrs. V. Millar 1974 to date, Mr. I. Baillieu adviser to Laws Committee.

Librarian

Mrs. W. McGregor 1959-66, Mrs. E. Horsburgh 1966-78, Mrs. V. Millar 1978 to date.

Editorial Panel A.C.C. Gazette

Miss A. B. Morrison.

Correspondent to A.C.C. Gazette

Miss A. B. Morrison, Mrs. A. Nelson, Mrs. C. Clark.

Publicity Officer

Mrs. B. Dodd, Mrs. G. Edwards.

Australian Referees' Certificate Examiner

Miss A. B. Morrison, Mrs. G. R. Cooper, Mrs. A. B. Challen, Mrs. W. McGregor, Miss K. E. Burne, Mrs. J. E. Skingley, Mrs. E. Horsburgh, Mrs. V. Millar, Mrs. H. Kennedy, Mrs. B. Joyner, Mr. L. Mason.

Auditor

Mrs. M. Meek 1979 to date.

A.C.C. Delegate to Confederation of Australian Sport

Mrs. G. Edwards 1974 to date.

Honorary Solicitor

Mr. T. Dall (husband of player) 1951-1954

Honorary Promotions Officer

Mr. C. James (husband of player) 1980 to date.

THE INTERSTATE CUP

On the formation of the A.C.C. the V.C.A. passed over the Eire Cup as this had been won by a team representing Australia, although composed of Victorian players. It has been awarded as a perpetual interstate team trophy, the first contest under the auspices of the A.C.C. taking place in 1950. Since that date Victoria has won it nine times, in 1953, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1964, 1965, 1967 and 1968. The perpetual trophy for the runner up, the W. H. Smith Silver Salver donated in 1975 by an Adelaide player Mr. W. H. Smith was won by Victoria in 1976 and 1979. Before 1975 Victoria had been runner-up in 1951, 1955, 1956, 1962, 1966, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1974.

VICTORIAN INTERSTATE TEAMS

Year	Team	Venue	Winner
Organized by Home State			
1948	Mrs. G. Cooper (Captain), Miss A. Morrison, Mrs. L. Brain, Mrs. R. Edwards, Emergency—Mrs. F. Baner,	Sydney	New South Wales
1949	Mrs. G. Cooper (Captain), Miss A. Morrison, Mrs. A. Challen, Miss D. Pakes.	Brisbane	Victoria
Under Auspices of A.C.C.			
1950	Miss A. Morrison (Captain), Mrs. F. Baner, Mrs. A. Challen, Miss D. Pakes, Emergency—Mrs. R. Edwards.	Melbourne	New South Wales
1951	Miss A. Morrison (Captain, Manager), Mrs. A. Challen, Mrs. F. Baner, Mrs. R. Edwards, Miss D. Pakes.	Adelaide	New South Wales
1952	Miss A. Morrison (Captain), Mrs. F. Baner, Mrs. A. Challen, Mrs. A. McLaughlin.	Hobart	South Australia
1953	Mrs. A. Challen (Captain), Mrs. F. Baner, Mrs. J. Webb, Miss N. Burne.	Perth	Victoria
1954	Mrs. F. Baner (Captain), Mrs. R. Edwards, Miss D. Pakes, Mrs. J. Webb.	Brisbane	South Australia
1955	Mrs. F. Baner (Captain), Mrs. G. Edwards, Mr. T. Howat, Miss D. Pakes.	Sydney	South Australia
1956	Mr. E. Hunt (Captain), Mrs. F. Baner, Mr. T. Howat, Miss D. Pakes, Emergencies—Mrs. T. Dall, Mrs. E. Webb.	Melbourne	South Australia

Year	Team	Venue	Winner
Under Auspices of A.C.C.			
1957	Mrs. F. Baner (Captain), Mr. T. Howat, Mrs. T. Dall, Mrs. R. Edwards.	Adelaide	Victoria
1958	Mrs. F. Baner (Captain), Mrs. T. Dall, Mrs. M. Harrison, Miss D. Pakes.	Hobart	Victoria
1959	Miss N. Burne (Captain), Mrs. G. Edwards, Miss H. Stokes, Mrs. McGregor, Emergency—Mr. C. Burrows.	Brisbane	Victoria
1960	Mrs. M. Harrison (Captain), Mrs. G. Edwards, Mrs. McGregor, Mrs. C. Burrows. Reserve—Miss H. Stokes.	Perth	Queensland
1961	Mrs. M. Harrison (Captain), Mrs. F. Baner, Mr. T. Howat, Mr. C. Rogers.	Sydney	Victoria
1962	Mrs. M. Harrison (Captain), Mrs. F. Baner, Mrs. E. Webb, Mr. L. Mason. Emergency—Mrs. M. Gazzard	Melbourne	South Australia
1963	Mrs. M. Harrison (Captain), Mrs. F. Baner, Mrs. McGregor, Mrs. M. Gazzard.	Adelaide	Queensland
1964	Mr. T. Howat (Captain), Mrs. F. Baner, Mrs. M. Harrison, Mr. C. Rogers.	Hobart	Victoria
1965	Mrs. F. Baner (Captain), Mrs. M. Harrison, Mrs. G. Edwards, Mr. T. Howat.	Perth	Victoria
1966	Mrs. M. Harrison (Captain), Mrs. G. Edwards, Mrs. H. Merrylees, Mr. C. Rogers.	Brisbane	South Australia
1967	Mrs. G. Edwards (Captain), Mrs. H. Merrylees, Mr. C. Rogers, Mr. T. Howat.	Sydney	Victoria
1968	Mrs. M. Harrison (Captain), Mrs. G. Edwards, Mrs. H. Merrylees, Mr. C. Rogers.	Melbourne	Victoria
1969	Mrs. M. Harrison (Captain), Mrs. M. Gazzard, Mr. T. Howat, Mrs. H. Merrylees.	Adelaide	South Australia
1970	Mrs. G. Edwards (Captain), Mrs. H. Merrylees, Mrs. B. Dodd, Mr. C. Rogers.	Hobart	South Australia
1971	Mrs. B. Dodd (Captain), Mrs. H. Merrylees, Mrs. J. Gouldsmith, Mrs. G. Edwards, Emergency—Miss I. Ormston.	Perth	South Australia
1972	Mrs. G. Edwards (Captain), Mr. B. Russell, Mrs. H. Merrylees, Mrs. V. Crane.	Brisbane	South Australia
1973	Mrs. G. Edwards (Captain), Mr. T. Howat, Mr. L. Mason, Mr. B. Russell.	Sydney	South Australia
1974	Mrs. G. Edwards (Captain), Mrs. V. Crane, Mrs. V. Millar, Mr. R. Sloane.	Melbourne	South Australia
1975	Mrs. B. Dodd (Captain), Mrs. V. Crane, Mrs. V. Millar, Mr. R. Sloane.	Adelaide	South Australia

Year	Team	Venue	Winner
1976	Mr. T. Howat (Captain), Mrs. G. Edwards, Mrs. B. Dodd, Mr. R. Sloane.	Hobart	South Australia
1977	Mr. T. Howat (Captain), Mr. R. Sloane, Mrs. B. Dodd, Mrs. V. Peters.	Perth	South Australia
1978	Mrs. G. Edwards (Captain), Mrs. B. Dodd, Mrs. R. Livock, Mr. R. Sloane.	Brisbane	South Australia
1979	Mrs. G. Edwards O.A.M (Captain), Mrs. B. Dodd, Mr. R. Sloane, Mr. T. Howat.	Sydney	New South Wales
1980	Mrs. G. Edwards O.A.M. (Captain), Mr. T. Howat, Mr. R. Sloane, Mr. B. Russell.	Melbourne	South Australia

VICTORIANS WHO WON A.C.C. INDIVIDUAL HONOURS

The annual carnival at which the interstate teams competition is played is also the venue for several individual events, most of which are open to all Division 1 and 2 players, and in which many Victorians have had success. The carnival has always been popular with Victorian club members, many attending every year and staying over the three weeks of events. The most prestigious trophy for the Australian croquet player is the English Silver Medal, and this is not an open championship event.

ENGLISH SILVER MEDAL

The English Croquet Association has given a silver medal to the A.C.C. each year since 1953, and the A.C.C. awards it for competition between the A.C.C. gold medallists from each state. Mr. T. Howat (Coburg) and Mrs. E. Baner (Glen Iris) are both multiple winners, Mr. Howat on four occasions, Mrs. Baner on two.

1961	Mrs. F. Baner	1965	Mrs. F. Baner	1967	Mr. T. Howat
1964	Mr. T. Howat	1966	Mr. T. Howat	1977	Mr. T. Howat

ENGLISH BRONZE MEDAL

The English Croquet Association has given a bronze medal to the A.C.C. each year since 1953, and the A.C.C. awards it to the runner-up in the silver medal competition.

Several Victorians have been successful.

1956	Mr. E. Hunt	1968	Mr. C. Rogers	1974	Mr. A. B. Russell
1957	Mr. T. Howat	1969	Mr. T. Howat	1976	Mr. T. Howat
1960	Mrs. M. Harrison	1971	Mr. T. Howat	1980	Mr. T. Howat
1962	Mrs. M. Harrison	1972	Mr. A. B. Russell		

OPEN EVENTS

There are four events which are open to Division 1 and 2 players:

Championship Singles

The Wall Cup, given in 1950 by Mrs. I. Wall, first president of A.C.C., is awarded as a perpetual challenge trophy for the singles championship of Australia, and is open to men and women with a handicap of 5 and under.

The successful Victorians:

1950	Mrs. F. Baner	1960	Mrs. M. Harrison	1966	Mr. T. Howat
1953	Mrs. F. Baner	1961	Mr. T. Howat	1967	Mr. T. Howat
1954	Miss A. B. Morrison	1962	Mr. L. Mason	1968	Mr. T. Howat
1955	Mr. T. Howat	1963	Mr. T. Howat	1970	Mr. C. Rogers
1958	Mrs. T. Dall	1964	Mr. T. Howat	1974	Mrs. V. Crane
1959	Mr. T. Howat	1965	Mr. T. Howat		

Championship Doubles

From 1950 the A.C.C. has given perpetual Challenge Salvagers for the doubles championship of Australia, open to men and women with a handicap of 5 and under.

The successful Victorians:

1950	Mrs. F. Baner and Mrs. R. Edwards	1962	Mrs. M. Harrison and Mr. L. Mason
1952	Mrs. F. Baner and Mrs. A. B. Challen	1963	Mr. E. Hunt and partner
1958	Mrs. M. Harrison and Miss K. Hanley	1965	Mr. and Mrs. T. Howat
1959	Mr. and Mrs. T. Howat	1968	Mrs. H. Merrylees and Mr. C. Rogers

Ladies' Singles

In 1969 the English MacRobertson Shield team brought a fine silver cup to Australia as a gift to the A.C.C. The A.C.C. awarded it as a perpetual trophy for the ladies' singles event open to women with a handicap of 5 and under.

The successful Victorians:

1973	Mrs. G. Edwards	1974	Mrs. V. Crane	1978	Mrs. B. Dodd
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Men's Singles

The A.C.C. Tray is a perpetual challenge trophy awarded since 1970 for the men's singles event open to men with a handicap of 5 and under. Mr. T. Howat was successful in 1974.

TROPHY FOR DIVISION TWO

There are no events for Division 2 players only, but the A. B. Morrison Trophy is awarded to the player with a handicap between 2 and 5 who won most games in the open events at the carnival. It is a perpetual trophy given in 1961 by Miss A. B. Morrison (Elwood Club) president of A.C.C. from 1957 to 1960. It replaced the trophy given in 1957 by Mr. T. Brady for handicaps from 2¹/₂ to 5. Following Miss Morrison's death in 1964, her family continued it as a memorial trophy.

The successful Victorians:

1968	Mr. T. Aurisch	1978	Mr. J. Boschetti
1969	Mrs. E. Tronerud	1980	Mr. R. Kerr
1977	Mrs. N. McFadyen		

16. REFEREEING

CONCERN ABOUT STANDARDS

The distinction of being the first umpire whose name appears in Victorian records goes to Mr. E. Austin of Geelong who officiated at a charity tournament in Melbourne in 1904. We are happy to learn that, as reported in the Australasian, he gave complete satisfaction.

This was not the case with all umpires, and the V.C.A. did not take long to show its concern about standards in Victoria. In 1924 it was decided to award a certificate of competency for umpires by means of a written examination, the examining committee consisting of Mr. C. W. Wren (Melbourne, Brighton, Auburn Heights and Glenferrie Hill), Mr. A. G. Roberts (Melbourne, Auburn Heights, and Brighton), and Mr. C. J. Miller (Brighton and Warleigh), who appointed eighteen umpires that year. By 1926 it was decided that the exam should be oral, ocular, and by demonstration. A distinction was made between referees and umpires in 1931, and a Referees and Umpire's Certificate issued. Mr. C. J. Miller was given charge both as instructor and examiner. He held an annual school. In 1931 he examined ninety-two, but awarded only thirty-four umpires' certificates including twenty referees.

REFEREES' ASSOCIATION

The Victorian Umpires' Club was formed on October 31 1947 at a meeting for umpires and referees authorized by V.C.A. and held at Caulfield Recreation Club. The foundation office bearers were: President—Mrs. S. Macfie (Caulfield Recreation), Honorary Secretary—Mrs. C. V. Cecil (Essendon), and Honorary Treasurer—Mrs. F. Tilson (Glen Iris). In 1947 the name was changed to Victorian Umpires' Association, and in 1948 to the Victorian Referees' Association. Immediately the Association went to work to raise the standard of refereeing by pressurizing the V.C.A. Council to upgrade the certificate. In 1948 the examination was for referees only, and the Referees' Certificate came into being. The examiners at this period were Mrs. G. R. Cooper (Melbourne), Miss Wilmoth (Auburn Heights) and Mr. A. Glen Roberts (Melbourne). In 1948 there were thirty-three referees, one of those holding the original Victorian Referees' Certificate being Mrs. H. Jones (Coburg), who was still a practising referee in 1980. In the list were four country players: Mrs. Middleton (Korumburra), Miss Mitchell and Mrs. Branditt (Shepparton) and Mrs. A. W. Wilson (Tatura). In that same year the association suggested that tournament committees appoint a "referee of the tournament".

The association applied for admission to the V.C.A. Council in 1952, but it was not until an alteration to the constitution was made in 1957 that they were admitted as an associated association with one delegate. A referees' badge was struck in the same season.

Monthly meetings of the association are held at which question and answer sessions take first priority. The Laws and Decisions Committee co-operate, making them worthwhile meetings that maintain standards and keep the referees au fait with the correct interpretation of croquet laws. Summaries of the discussions are sent to country members twice a year. In 1980 the membership was one hundred and fifty-two out of a possible one hundred and eighty-two, comprising seventy-eight metropolitan and seventy-four country referees.

AUSTRALIAN REFEREES

To bring about uniform standards of referring in Australia, the A.C.C. decided in 1951 to appoint examiners in each state who would all conduct similar exams for an Australian Referee's Certificate entitling the holder to referee at A.C.C. carnivals. The first Victorian examiners appointed were Miss A. B. Morrison (Elwood) and Mrs. G. R. Cooper. Miss Morrison was the first Victorian to hold the certificate. By 1980 there were seventeen holders.

The 1980 Victorian examiners were Mrs. V. Millar (Seddon), Mrs. H. Kennedy (Elsternwick), Mrs. B. Joyner (Glenferrie Hill) and Mr. L. Mason (Brunswick).

REFRESHER COURSE

A series of lectures on the laws of croquet was given by Miss N. Burne at Glenferrie Hill in the winter of 1963. It was so successful that it was made an annual event, acting as an instruction course for intending referees and a refresher course for practising referees. Miss Burne was assisted by Mrs. V. Millar. In 1972 Miss Burne gave up and Mrs. B. Joyner continued the course until 1979. The attendance averaged fifty. The series has been responsible for maintaining a supply of new referees each year.

EXAMINERS

The examination for the various types of certificate awarded over the years by V.C.A. was the responsibility of the Laws and Decisions Committee from 1924. The committee at that time comprised Mr. C. W. Wren, Mr. A. G. Roberts and Mr. C. J. Miller. The 1980 examiners were Mrs. V. Millar, Mrs. B. Joyner and Miss J. Cosstick (Brighton). Examiners who were influential over long periods were Mr. C. J. Miller, Mrs. N. Semken (Sandringham), Miss E. Macfie (Caulfield Recreation) and Mrs. V. Millar.

NUMBER OF VICTORIAN REFEREES

Season	Referees	Umpires (including referees)	Season	Referees	
31-32	20	34	48-49	33 (4 country)	
32-3	31	56	53-54	106	
33-34	32	64	55-56	119	
34-35	30	62	57-8	132	
35-36	30	64			
			Season	City	Country
36-7	29	63 (4 country)	59-60	76	52
38-39	29	65 (4 country)	69-70	84	76
41-42	24	72 (4 country)	79-80	89	93

17. DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAWS IN VICTORIA

EARLY YEARS

Before the turn of the century croquet was a fashionable garden party game in Victoria, often played in a spirit of light-hearted dalliance. At that stage, up to eight players were on the lawn together throughout the match, and they generally consisted of a mixture of the sexes. The hoops were so wide that the game was easy, and the players attention could be divided.

There were already clubs in existence, and no doubt their attitude was a little more serious. As there was no unifying body in the state to give a lead on the laws, there were various approaches to the game, and even divergent opinions about the number of hoops to be used. However, after the prestigious. "Australian Town and Country Journal" described the game in the issue of December 3 1870 and published a set of rules on December 10, it is reasonable to suppose that most clubs

would play the game their way.

The description given was a very full one. A diagram of a ten hoop setting with two pegs was included and the course plotted. There were four hoops down the middle with a peg at each end, and three hoops down each side. The ball was placed between the starting peg and the first of the "down the middle" hoops. The first two of the middle hoops were made, then over to the side three, and then back to the other "down the middle" two, then hit the turning peg, then through the previous two in reverse direction, then over to the three on the other side, then through the first two in reverse, finishing up by hitting the finishing (starting) peg. The rules also permitted a setting of nine hoops and a finishing cage containing a bell.

Up to four players constituted a side. The eight players, all on the lawn at the same time, played in order of colour. Balls were of beech or boxwood, coloured blue, black, brown, green, pink, yellow, orange and red. Hoops were up to three times the width of the wall. Mallets at this time were lighter than the ball.

Stroke progression was similar to today's—roquet, croquet and continuation, with each ball roqueted only once. There were two styles of croquet stroke, the one that is used today, and another where the player placed his foot firmly on his own ball and, by giving it a sharp tap, sent the other ball through or near its hoop if it was his partner, or right off the lawn if his opponent. There was no limit to the size of the lawn in those days, and no "out" penalty.

A rover could choose either to peg himself out or stay on the lawn and help his team mates. His opponents could peg him out at any stage whether they were rovers or not. If he was a good player they would peg him out, but, if he was not, they would leave him on the lawn so that they could use him. This type of play was called "tight" croquet.

ENGLISH CROQUET ASSOCIATION

Meanwhile, back in England, there was organization and definition of rules. The tradesman who had been making the equipment since the game arrived from Ireland about 1851 sold all right to Jaques and Sons London, and this firm published rules in 1854 and popularized the game. In 1868 the All England Croquet Club was formed, with headquarters acquired at Wimbledon in 1870.

This influential club immediately drew up rules abolishing "tight" croquet. Width of hoops were reduced to six inches, and a six hoop setting with two pegs (Hale's setting) was decided on. The area of the lawn was set at forty yards by thirty yards, with boundaries and penalties for "out" balls.

Unfortunately, this made croquet a much more difficult game. Later, when the width of hoops shrank to three and three-quarter inches, its popularity declined in England and this let tennis in. Wimbledon became the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club in 1877. Over the next five years croquet lost so much ground that it was deleted altogether. It gradually made a come-back, and from 1895 Wimbledon became the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, as it is today.

In 1896 Mr. W. H. Peel formed the English Croquet Association, and laws were issued in 1897. Size of lawn was set at thirty-five yards by twenty-eight yards. The six hoops were set out as they are today. There were two pegs, a turning peg placed between hoops two and three to be hit after making hoop six, and a finishing peg between hoops four and one to be hit after making rover. Hoops were four inches wide, balls three and five-eighths of an inch in diameter and weighing between fifteen and sixteen and a half ounces. There was a limit of four players on the lawn,

playing in sequence—blue, red, black, yellow throughout the match. To start the game the ball was placed one foot in front of hoop one. There were fourteen points to be made with each ball. This setting was called Cavendish. Bisques were given.

RULES AT TURN OF CENTURY

No doubt in the first decade of the present century enough information filtered through from England to influence some of the croquet here, but there was still no body to codify the laws for the state, although Melbourne Club had begun to exert a strong influence. When they formed in 1904, they were assisted by the members of the Melbourne Bowling Club. Mr. Embling, who had sponsored the croquet club, drafted a set of rules with the assistance of Mr. Norman Brookes and Mr. Walter Butler. Five hundred copies were printed and notices were published in the leading papers. As a result inquiries came from New Zealand, Tasmania and other states as well as from most of the country towns of Victoria.

There is no record of these rules, but the Cavendish setting was certainly used, judging from photographs of the Melbourne Club lawns published in the Australasian and the Argus during 1905 and 1906, in which the two pegs are visible.

V.C.A. LAWS OF CROQUET

There is no doubt that the V.C.A., on its formation, used the English Croquet Association's Laws of Croquet, although they were not formally adopted until 1923. Now at last there was a unifying body for the whole state. As each club affiliated it was bound to use the V.C.A. laws, making for a uniform approach to the game throughout Victoria.

A Laws and Decisions (and Handicaps) Committee consisting of Mrs. J. Parsons, Mrs. I. W. Stranger and Mr. C. W. Wren was elected immediately to interpret the laws to members. Over the years Mr. C. I. Miller, Miss A. B. Morrison and Mrs. V. Millar have been members of particular influence on this committee.

The laws were published for the first time in Victoria in the Croquet Annual of 1916/17, and from then on were always included in the regularly issued annuals until 1959/60, with the result that all amendments were kept under the notice of the croquet members.

Each Laws and Decisions Committee has made it a practice to visit country areas, if invited, to give talks and demonstrations.

ALTERATIONS TO LAWS

Regularly over the years the E.C.A. has made alterations to the Laws of Croquet. Sometimes, before an alteration was made, it was included in the law book as an alternative. If it proved successful over a trial period of a year or two, it became the law. Victoria proved to be conservative, and rarely used the alternatives until they became law.

In 1912 the Willis setting was included as an alternative. This was the setting that we use today with six hoops and one peg. The Cavendish setting with two pegs was labelled "Setting Number One", and the Wills setting with one peg "Setting Number Two". The Willis setting did not become law until 1932, although by the early '20's most players were using it. Tournament schedules were required to state which setting was to be used, and even as late as 1927 this was done for the International Tournament run in conjunction with the MacRobertson Shield matches held that year, when Setting Number Two was indicated.

Sequence play, where the four players played in order—blue, red, black, yellow throughout the game applied until 1920. From then on, either of the partners could play after the opening strokes.

A lift after four back was the first introduction of the lift, made in 1928. By 1939 the lift was given after four back only if it was made before all four balls had made hoop four previous to that tum. It was not until after World War 11 that lift and contact as played today were introduced. They were being used by 1948.

Until 1920 it was not permissible to use a $\frac{1}{2}$ bisque following by 1 bisque. And, in a law introduced that year, either one of the partners was permitted to use the bisques. However, Victoria did not accept this for several years. An unusual law applied until 1919. The adversary, by forfeiting 3 bisques, could at any time declare that the striker's tum had ended.

In 1916 a player taking a lift for a wired ball had to play from the baulk selected by his opponent. Not until 1920 was he allowed the choice.

All play started from A baulk until 1924, when either A or B could be used.

In the croquet stroke the player was permitted to place his foot on his own ball until 1912.

Golf croquet was first included in the law book in 1949. This sociable variation of the more scientific game allows all players on the lawn together, and dispenses with the difficult croquet stroke. It has proved popular with beginners, and can be used as a promotional game with members of the public.

From 1930 to 1938 the bevelled edge of the mallet was regarded as part of the face. From 1938 it became a foul stroke if the ball was struck with the bevel.

The Bagnall-Wild method of making a draw was first published in the Regulations for Tournaments included in the law book for the first time in 1928.

1961 EDITION OF LAWS

Mr. Ian Baillieu, a Victorian player studying law at Oxford, remained in England after being called to the bar in 1926. He coached croquet at Hurlingham and was a member of the English Croquet Association's Laws Committee. In 1960 he completely re-phrased the laws book in preparation for the 1963 MacRobertson Shield matches, and visited both Australia and New Zealand to discuss the proposals with the respective Laws Committees. As president of A.C.C. at that time, Miss A. B. Morrison (Elwood and Caulfield Recreation) was involved in the restructuring. In 1961 the A.C.C. accepted the law book, but Victoria, while accepting the laws, did not accept the book in toto.

The 1961 laws changed the word "foul" to "fault", a much more acceptable term.

The special case of hoop and roquet was introduced. In the new law, a ball was deemed to have made hoop and roquet if, before completing the running of the hoop, it hit a ball that was clear of the hoop on the non-playing side and finally ran its hoop.

The method for making a draw and a process in the two-life system was published in the 1961 edition, and improved in the 1972 amended edition.

A change was made to the replacement of comer balls in the 1972 amended edition. If two or

more balls had to be replaced in the corner area, the player decided which one to place on the corner spot.

The copyright of the 1961 edition of the laws was reserved by the E.C.A., so they were never again included in the V.C.A. Croquet Annual. Copies were purchased from England and sold to members.

LOCAL LAWS

The E.C.A. amendments were not always accepted without protest. The 1920's were troubled times. The first disagreement came in 1927 when the E.C.A. relaxed the penalty for playing a wrong ball. The V.C.A. sought permission to retain their own strict rule, but this was refused under threat of disaffiliation. It was not until 1948 that an E.C.A. amendment reverted to the "loss of innings" penalty.

Further disagreement came in 1928, when the lift at four back was made law and it became obvious that it would be impracticable to use the lift on the half size lawns on which the B's and C's played. In this case permission was eventually granted, but in the meantime there was great pressure to frame Australian Laws of Croquet, especially when, in 1928, the Regulation for Tournaments were included in the E.C.A. lawbook. In 1930, with England's permission, the V.C.A. published its own Victorian Croquet Regulations for Official Tournaments. A diagram of the B/C court had already been published in 1929. It showed the modified lawn eighty-four feet by fifty-two feet six inches, with hoops one, two, three and four positioned fourteen feet from the relevant boundaries, and hoops five and six fourteen feet from the peg. The distance between the boundary and the yard line is not reduced as on other modified courts.

In 1932 the Victorian Croquet Regulations for Tournaments authorized the tournament handicapper to give an official handicap to a competitor who had none, and to reduce an official handicap in C grade to a minimum of 12 bisques after the competitor's first singles game. In 1979 Council decided that such a reduction should be by 1 bisque only. By 1953 the authorization was extended to 11 bisques in exceptional circumstances with the approval of the V.C.A. Handicap Committee.

In the early '50's clubs evidently were given authority to handicap their own players to 14 bisques with the approval of the V.C.A. Handicap Committee. By the 1953 Victorian Croquet Regulations for Tournaments this authorization was extended to 13 bisques. Later it was extended to 12 bisques.

Although the English Croquet Association brought out its rephrased law book in 1961, Victoria, while immediately adopting the Laws of Croquet, did not accept the Regulations for Tournaments in toto until 1979. Before that date Regulation Eight was not complied with, time limit matches being of two hours duration finishing on the bell.

Several "Local Laws" permitted under Law Twenty-five have been approved, and apply in Victoria: If, when time is called, the striker has commenced his swing, the stroke may be played. A ball may be moved according to Law Twenty-four if a ditch or drop outside the court would necessitate the striker standing with his feet on two levels, or the thickness of the boundary cord interferes with his stroke. Should an adversary interrupt the striker for any other reason than those permitted by Law Twenty-six (a), he shall be penalized by not being able to score a point for any ball in his next turn. In the handicap play, if the difference in bisques includes 34, it is not counted as 1 bisque as in Law Forty-three (a), but taken as a $\frac{1}{2}$ and a $\frac{1}{4}$, the $\frac{1}{4}$ bisque being 1 stroke only which must be played from position, no roquet to count.

In pennant play in all division, the referees are in charge of the two games, not on call. If there are more than two simultaneous games, they are on call.

In tournament play, the referee of two simultaneous games, either on separate lawns or with double balls on one lawn, are on call for Divisions 1, 2 and 3, but in charge of any Division 4 games.

18. PROMOTION AND COACHING

PROMOTION

One of the earliest members to appreciate the importance of promoting croquet was Mr. MacRobertson (Fairfield), who toured the country areas in 1916 with his daughter, giving advice on forming clubs.

The advancement and rapid strides the game made in Victoria in the early days of the V.C.A. were largely attributed to Mr. E. Terry (Melbourne), a champion player who toured the country districts helping the players to form clubs and lay down lawns. He also visited every suburban club bestowing his excellent knowledge of the game upon the players.

When the rules of golf croquet were published in 1949 it became evident that here was an ideal game to introduce the public to croquet. Over the years it has been used most successfully. Shepparton is one club that runs golf croquet twilight games on a regular basis throughout the daylight saving period, and has found that it attracts many new members. Mrs. B. Dodd (Brighton) used it from 1974 when she started National Fitness classes for the Youth Sports and Recreation Council, first at Monash, then at Springvale Club.

Kingball, introduced by Mr. T. Howat (Brunswick) to the club in 1953, has been run on a regular basis at Brunswick since 1957 and has been the means of increasing club membership.

Mr. Howat, then of Coburg, started National Fitness classes at Essendon in 1975.

A carpet croquet set, purchased by the V.C.A. in 1975, is used whenever a stand is taken for croquet at sports exhibitions in places such as the Exhibition Building.

PROFESSIONAL COACHES

Mr. A. Glen Roberts (Melbourne) became a professional coach in 1932. Until that time there had been no professionals in Victorian croquet, and the V.C.A. Constitution did not include this category. Advice was sought from the English Croquet Association, and from 1934 professionals were excluded from club membership and participation in all tournaments. V.C.A. members may only coach if authorized by the association.

In 1949 Mrs. A. D. Mowbray (Ballarat) applied for permission to coach. She took up professional coaching, charging a small fee, and visiting country and metropolitan clubs, spending eight to twelve days in each area. She did much to improve play in Victoria, some two hundred players receiving training from her. When she gave up in 1958, the V.C.A. re-instated her and granted amateur status. Since that time there have been no professional coaches in Victoria.

VISITORS OF NOTE

Members of the English MacRobertson Shield teams have generously given demonstrations

while here or on their way to or from New Zealand for the tests. Demonstrations were given by Miss D. Steel in 1929, Mr. Ward PetJey in 1935, Mr. Solomon and Mr. Hicks in 1951, Mr. Hicks and Mr. L. Pratt in 1963, and Mr. Neal and Mr. Solomon in 1969. And in 1930 and 1954 Mr. A. Ross, the noted New Zealand player, gave demonstrations.

USE OF FILMS

In 1931 the V.C.A., concerned at the lack of tuition available, commissioned Mr. C. Miller (Warleigh) to prepare a slow motion film showing the faults in making strokes. It received its first showing on April 24, 1933, and was of great interest to country players when shown later during Country Week. In 1934 Mr. Miller and Mr. Hunt toured the country districts. They visited twelve clubs, lecturing on the laws by day and showing the film at night.

In 1951 Miss Morrison supervised the making of a film of strokes and grips during the demonstrations given by Mr. Solomon and Mr. Hicks.

COACHING BY MEMBERSHIPS

Miss A. B. Morrison (Melbourne, then Glenferrie Hill, then Elwood and Caulfield Recreation), who was a polished stroke maker and tactician, devoted much of her time in the '30's, '40's and '50's to improving the standard of the game by giving demonstrations at interstate carnivals and by visiting city clubs and country centres.

Demonstrations in the metropolitan area were given by Mrs. A. B. Challen (Elsternwick) and Mrs. Baner (Glen Iris) in the '40's, '50's and '60's, Miss D. Pakes (Auburn Heights then Glen Iris) in the '40's and '50's, Mr. and Mrs. T. Howat and Mr. and Mrs. L. Mason (Coburg), Mr. and Mrs. C. Burrows (Warleigh) and Mr. and Mrs. C. Rogers (Sandringham) working as a team in the '50's and '60's.

A series of coaching classes under the auspices of V.C.A. were held at headquarters in 1968 by Mr. T. Howat, Mr. C. Rogers and Mr. E. Hunt (Sandringham).

Mr. T. Howat and Mr. C. Rogers made visits to country areas in the '50's and '60's demonstrating and tutoring. Mrs. B. Dodd (Brighton) made regular visits to country districts through the '70's.

Mr. T. Howat's analytical approach to the game, his skill with the mallet, and his ability and willingness to impart knowledge, have had a major impact on croquet throughout the state. His influence has been a wide one. He has demonstrated and coached in every state through the '50's, '60's and '70's.

The V.C.A. is indebted to the dedicated amateurs who have devoted so much time over the years to the invaluable work of improving the standard of croquet in Victoria.

In all clubs beginners are instructed by experienced club members.

ROTHMAN'S COACHING CLASSES

In England in 1964, Rothman's National Sports Foundation made £100,000 available yearly to promote coaching in all sports. In 1969 Mr. Neal and Mr. Solomon, while in Australia for the tests, showed interest in the idea of making an audio-visual film on croquet strokes and tactics. On their return to England the film was made. It was finished in 1970 at a cost of \$15,000. The Rothman's equipment has been used extensively in Victoria. The V.C.A. elected a Rothman's coaching

committee with Mrs. B. Dodd as chairman. Mrs. Dodd has been an active force in coaching in Victoria since that time. On February 22 1972 she compered the initial viewing of the film at St. Andrew's Hall, Brighton, then ran a seminar for country coaches in her own home. The committee made the film available to clubs, where it met with an enthusiastic reception from both experienced players and beginners.

Coaching classes were held at V.C.A. headquarters in the winter of 1972 for A, B and C grades. These classes trained eighty-five coaches. There were at least two in every metropolitan club and one in each country association. The Rothman's material continued to be borrowed by clubs throughout the '70's, and has been most helpful to individual players.

In 1979 Mrs. Dodd organized a certificate course for A grade players who had done the Rothman's course. The certificate entitled them to coach Band C players and to charge a nominal fee. According to the V.C.A. constitution. members who coach at the request of the association are not deprived of their amateur status. By 1980 fifteen coaches had been trained, and these immediately began coaching in their own area.

VISIT OF DR. R. BRAY

The English champion, Dr. Roger Bray, was brought to Australia by the A.C.C. with a grant from Rothman's National Sports Foundation to coach in all states. While in Victoria he conducted four day classes for selected players at Brighton Club from September 4 to 11 1971. Dr. Bray had assisted in the making of the Rothman's film. He expressed surprise that there was no organized top level coaching in Victoria.

19. PUBLICITY

The publicity given to croquet in the latter part of the 19th century in Victoria was excellent. Because it was played by the upper classes, the military personnel and the clergy, it had status. The "Australian Town and Country Journal" of December 3 1870 has this to say:

.. In many localities in the old country it threatens to supercede cricket as a scientific game, but it is not in that light that it has the greater claims to notice.
—Its attractions arise from the fact that it fulfils the conditions of suitability for both sexes, and is played by mixed parties of ladies and gentlemen."

The game had social status well into the early part of the 20th Century, and charity tournaments were reported in detail on the society pages of the Australasian and the Argus, with names of spectators and photographs of the play and. in some cases, of the display of trophies.

With the opening of the Melbourne Club the reporting of the open tournaments became more business like, and. by the time the V.C.A. was formed, the papers were aware of croquet as a serious sport, and it moved onto the sports pages. The Argus gave generous publicity. which included the publication of the results of each day's play in the state championships at Melbourne Club and the draw for the next day's play. The issues of 1914, 1915, 1916 and 1917 make it plain that, even during the war years when the size of the paper was restricted, the results and the draw still appeared daily.

The Argus gave a comprehensive account of the first state championships run under the auspices of the V.C.A. The issue of March 24 1916 reported that the singles was won by Mr. A. Bonville Were (President of the V.C.A.), the ladies singles by Mrs. Stranger of Bright, and the

doubles by Mrs. Stranger and Mr. H. Birchnell of Melbourne Club. "Mr. Were's win was popular as well as meritorious —not only is he the president of V.C.A. but owner of two lawns in the state and a numerous body of croquet players have been the recipient of his genial and widespread hospitality."

During the war years and throughout the 1920's, articles on croquet appeared in the city press. Mr. E. Terry (Melbourne) had a regular column in the Argus which he used to keep the croquet players in Victoria aware of the finer points of the game and also of happenings on the English croquet scene. As the years went on publicity became harder to obtain in the city papers, especially following the demise of the Argus on January 19 1957.

In 1928 the Argus and the Sun contacted V.C.A., each suggesting that it be the official organ for publishing tournament draws and results. The V.C.A. Council appointed the Argus as such. By 1931 the Argus was objecting to the Melbourne Club's schedule being published also in The Age. Council then appointed the Argus the official newspaper. By 1939 the Argus required articles as well as schedules to be confined to their paper. In 1940 their official status was cancelled, and for some years all of the three dailies were used.

In 1949 The Age was appointed the official organ of the association. In 1953 that paper stated that it had no objection to news items being given to other papers, but insisted on its right to the draws. From November 1970 they refused to publish the pennant results. From then on these were published in the Sun.

Country papers, on the whole, have always given good coverage of local croquet news because of community interest, even if only on the occasion of club tournaments. Draws of country tournaments are not usually sent to the press.

In the late 1960's, the Bendigo press ran a weekly column, "Hoops and Mallets", written by the Northern District Croquet Association.

Since 1971 the Melway Street Directory of Greater Melbourne has included the location of all metropolitan croquet clubs.

The suburban free press gives generous space to news items from the local clubs. Most croquet clubs offer free tuition on a regular day each week during the season. A welcome to attend these classes is placed in the papers serving the suburbs adjacent to the club, together with news of social days and of successes gained by local players.

Personal contact remains the most effective way of spreading knowledge of this most intellectually stimulating game. Followers of croquet—male and female, young and old—are usually avid players whose interest communicates itself to others. Their message comes across loud and clear:

"If you want a challenging sport, try croquet!".

