

## **A brief history of the clubs in the Western Metro Region**

### **Updated December 2017**

**Brimbank Croquet Club: 6 years old** Plays at Cairnlea. Founded as the Cairnlea Croquet Club in 2011 (name changed in 2014). It now has 13 members including a level 1 coach. Game days are on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (9.30 for 10 am) and play usually includes some training drills. Current ambition is to establish a junior squad.

**Brunswick Mallet Sports Club: 106 years old** Founded as Brunswick Croquet Club in 1911, by tradition in the garden of the founding President. In 1917 the club moved to Brunswick Park, with lawns set around a central rose garden. Its clubrooms opened in 1921. Electric lighting, installed over the lawns in 1947, led to an annual Electric Light tournament – Brunswick was then the only metro club with lights. At first all members were women; men were admitted in the 1950s and one of the club's most successful members was Mr Tom Howat, who won numerous competitions and trophies between 1954 and 1980. Numbers dwindled in the 1980s and 1990s, and leading croquet players including George Latham and the Hallinans joined to rescue the club. We are now thriving with well-cared for Santa Ana lawns, a recently renovated clubhouse, and around 50 enthusiastic members playing at all levels of GC, AC and gateball.

**Essendon Croquet Club: 105 years old** The Essendon Croquet Club was proposed in May 1912 to provide a sporting opportunity for those Essendon ladies whose husbands played Bowls and Cricket, at the Essendon Recreation Reserve (now Windy Hill). The club was officially opened on 1 March 1913 and the founding president Mrs AF (Maude) Showers was appointed a few days later. Over the last four years the club has increased its membership to over 80, has entered teams in Golf Shield and AC Pennant competitions, has repaired and repainted the exterior of the Clubhouse, purchased a new mower and produced two excellent lawns (the George Latham Court and the Shirley Hallinan Court), both with mature Santa Ana surfaces. Members play daily throughout the year, mainly Golf Croquet. The club has some excellent and keen AC players and is building AC play. Gateball is also played monthly at Essendon with members of other clubs.

**Maribyrnong Park Bowls and Croquet Association: 0 years old.** Formed in 2017, extending the options for bowlers and other interested players, and opening up the club to croquet with the conversion of a competition rink to two croquet courts.

**Williamstown Croquet Club: 91 years old** Williamstown Croquet Club was formed in 1926 after a meeting at the Williamstown Town Hall. Founding president was a Mrs Liston, wife of the mayor of Williamstown. Early on, a key development was the building of the clubhouse, which opened in December 1929. The clubhouse is still a wonderful asset, used daily by the Club membership and the wider Williamstown community. Current membership is 50 affiliated members with several more in the offing. Most members play golf croquet, but there is still a strong core of experienced AC players and new players learning the game. Members are active, playing most days of the week, and participating in Shield, Pennant and Tournament play. Under our very capable leadership group, and with active member involvement, we are focusing on the continued development of the lawns and surrounds and weed suppression. The future looks good.