

MALLETSPORTS IA

August 2018

The Voice of the Victorian Croquet Association Inc. No. A0001560E

VCA Men's and Women's Championships

The first Tournament of the new season was well attended, and we welcomed a few new faces from Warragul, Belmont and Williamstown.

Seven rounds were played on Saturday with finalists not being decided until the last round on Sunday morning. Top two in each block contested the semi finals. Men's finalists were John van der Touw, Brian Rowe, Lester Hughes, and Ian Petersen. Results, John van der Touw beat Lester Hughes 10/8 and Brian Rowe beat Ian Petersen 10/7. John and Brian played a marathon Bo3 final with John being the eventual winner 4/7 7/5 7/4. Congratulations John on a great effort.

Women's finalists were Anna Miller, Gail Hopkins, Judy Wembridge and Elaine Coverdale. Results Elaine Coverdale beat Anna Miller 10/9 and Gail Hopkins beat Judy Wembridge 10/9. Elaine and Gail played a Bo3 final with Elaine winning 7/6 7/4. Congratulations to Elaine gaining back to back titles, well done.

The plate event was won by Tricia Devlin winning all her games.

Thank you to the many helpers who packed up the lawns after play it takes the load off.

Lorraine Gutcher Tournament Manager



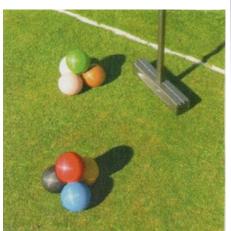
L to R;

John van der Touw (Men's winner), Gail Hopkins (Women's runner up), Elaine Coverdale (Women's winner) and Brian Rowe (Men's runner up).

John is from Monash CC and the others are from Essendon CC.

Patron: The Honorable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria

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President's Report

We are into a new season of croquet, after the Season Opening Day at the Victorian Croquet Centre held on Wednesday, 1st August, at which Life Member, Shirley Hallinan, ran the first hoop. I trust that the coming season will be enjoyable for all members.

Early in September, John van der Touw goes to CNSW HQ at Tempe, to compete in the ACA GC Gold Medal, where he will meet the winners of the other State Associations ACA Bronze Medal events. We wish him well.

The Golf Medal is followed by the Men's and Women's Championships and then by the Interstate Team competition, vying for the WCF Shield. The Victorian team is intent on returning the shield to Victoria. These events will be followed by an ACA General Meeting, at which I will be representing Croquet Victoria.

Later in September, on 29th & 30th, VCA is holding its inaugural junior's GC tournament at VCC. Planning is that, dependent on entries, it will commence at lunchtime of the Saturday, and conclude at lunchtime on the Sunday, thus limiting accommodation requirement for regional entrants to one night. This event will be our precursor to the Australian U21 GC Championship, in Adelaide next January. Details from, and entries to, Lorraine Gutcher, whose contact details are available from the VCA website. Please draw this event to the attention of any junior members in your club, as it will be an opportunity for them to compete against their peers.

As usual, referees are required for the junior championship, however advice from the Victorian Department of Justice & Regulation is that, as this is an event specifically for children, all officials will require Working With Children Checks. These can be applied for online and are free to volunteers; I encourage referees to undergo the check, obtain the card and officiate at the event, so mentoring the future of Croquet Victoria. For those members resident north of the Murray, cards issued by NSW Office of the Children's Guardian are acceptable for officiating at events within Victoria.

Planning for the 2020 WCF Association Croquet World Championship is progressing, with several clubs being requested to make their courts available to enable the event, which will have 80 contestants, to be completed within nine days.

Jim Clement

Holene F



Management Report

VCA website at: https://www.croquetvic.asn.au/minutes/20180717CoM.pdf

VCC: Trip Hazards: This work is completed. Trip hazards on concrete paths have been shaved (grinded) and where this was not possible due to a greater height differential asphalt patches were to be applied.

Building Inspection: A firm was authorised to inspect our headquarters (building) and prepare a report on the condition of the structure and provide recommendations for remedial work where appropriate. At the time of writing this report has not been received.

Light Towers: Authorisation for the inspection of the eight light towers (18 July 2018) including the adequacy of the existing footings. At the time of writing this report has not been received.

VCA:

Grant Account: A separate Bendigo Bank Account has been established into which unexpended grant funds from 2016-19 and future grant funds received will be deposited, and from which payments for grant related activities will be drawn. Funds are available to run Strategic Planning Workshops in your region on topics such as governance, recruiting and supporting new members, involving members and using social media. Sample running sheets for workshops on the above mentioned topics are in the Strategic Planning section of the Growing Croquet resource on the VCA website at: https://croquetvic.asn.au/Growing%20Croquet

An Athlete Pathway Travel grant application was submitted on 22 July 2018.

Policies: The review of VCA Policies and Terms of References/Job Descriptions is continuing.

Playing Different Croquet Codes Survey: Early results have been shared with Croquetwest.

Ricochet: Croquet Victoria now has four accredited Ricochet Referees. Congratulations to all. Terry Wilson (Wangaratta), Ruth Duffy (Corowa Civic), Maurice Cevaal-Hewitt (Twin City) and Sarina Cevaal-Hewitt (Twin City). Passing without any prior workshops or training sessions. A big step forward for Ricochet in Victoria.

Seniors Festival: From information supplied by Chris Reidy, thirty-two Croquet Victoria clubs are participating in this year's Seniors Festival. We have received this year's grant funding.

Distribution of the 2018 Victorian Seniors Festival program has commenced and programs will be out and about from 22 August next week. On that day the online Calendar of Events will also go live. Please provide feedback as to how your 'Come & Try' events fared during this year's Festival, whether anybody returned a second time or signed up as a club member. Did they have fun? This feedback is part of our Annual Report - we received some great photos last year. Who knows, that special photo might even be included in future calendars (must be high resolution)

VCA Website Redevelopment: This work has commenced.

Regional Reports to Council:

October	MVCA, NDCA, SEMCA
December	NEDCA, SWCA, WMCMA
February	Wimmera







Thanks to Mike Cohn

On Tuesday 17 July Mike Cohn attended his final meeting as Immediate Past President of Croquet Victoria, and was presented with a plaque honouring his eleven years of service to Council.

Mike served as a member of the Committee of Management; as Vice President; and as President for nearly six years, to August 2016.

Mike writes that during his time on Council, he particularly valued:

Visiting clubs around the state

Visiting all regions for the "roadshow" around 2012

Welcoming people to the Victorian Croquet Centre, including the hosting of state, national and international events. During my time as director, the Centre developed from an incomplete venue with three playable courts to the current excellent 12-court complex which is now the venue preferred by the most players in Australia for major events

Supporting Victorian teams playing for the Eire Cup and Interstate Shield

Sharing in the spirit of the Country Regionals

My friendship and working relationship with Jim Clement and Sandra Kastanaras.

Jim Clement, Croquet Vic Secretary under Mike and his successor as President, writes:

As the newly elected Croquet Victoria Secretary, I first met Mike Cohn, at that time the VCA Vice-president, in June 2010 and I have worked with him for the past eight years. In that time I have come to recognise his total dedication to VCA, VCC and croquet in general.

As Vice-president, chairing meetings during Val Brown's ill-health and as President, he mentored me in Croquet Victoria and we talked over Council and CoM matters, probably 5 nights out of seven, continuing until the expiration of his term as Immediate Past President.

Mike is very proud of VCC as the headquarters of VCA and as the premier croquet facility within Australia, and has worked tirelessly to ensure that it is and remains viable. He is both the licensee for VCC and the prime security call-out contact after the caretakers. He is delighted to see both national and international events being played there, refereeing at all AC events and having played roles in the 2012 WCF WACWC and the 2017 WCF GCWC. He is currently involved with the Organising Committees for the 2020 WCF ACWC and the 2021 MacRobertson Shield, both to be hosted at VCC.

Supporting croquet in general, and AC in particular, Mike attended every Eire Cup and WCF Shield competition during his presidency and continues to attend Eire Cups (often as a referee) and he also travels to AC World Championships held overseas to support and encourage Australian and Victorian entrants.

Croquet Victoria has been fortunate to have his input for the past eleven years.



Jim Clement presents Mike Cohn with a plaque recognising his service on the Croquet Victoria Council Pic: Kate Patrick

Mike continues as a member of the Croquet Australia Board, where he is currently Deputy Chair, and as national Coordinator AC Refereeing. He is a very active AC referee as well as being an active competitor.

Croquet Victoria thanks him for his service and wishes him well for his future in croquet.



95 Not Out!

Elsternwick Croquet Club celebrated the 95th birthday of member Ruth Puryer at an afternoon tea on Sunday 15 July.

Ruth has been playing croquet for 35 years, taking it up when she retired, and is still sprightly, cheery and an active player. Possibly the positive effects of 35 years playing Association Croquet!

The afternoon began with AC on the club's lawns - in excellent condition - and culminated in afternoon tea. The clubhouse was filled with well wishers, including local MP David Southwick, Croquet Vic vice president Kate Patrick, Immediate Past President Mike Cohn, Ruth's son Fletcher, and representatives of neighbouring clubs, as well as many members of Elsternwick.

Congratulating Ruth on her birthday, Elsternwick President Amy Tennant said: "I would like to welcome everyone and thank you for coming today on this happy occasion. Ruth, we are here today not only to celebrate your 95th birthday, but also because it is no mean feat to be still actively playing the sport that you love at the age of 95. I am sure that there are not many sports people who can claim such a distinction".

Elsternwick members may wonder why pumpkin scones are nowhere to be seen today. Well, that is because Ruth is the one who usually makes them, rising very early to bake them fresh on the day. But there was no way we would have her doing that on her special day.

Elsternwick Croquet Club was formed in 1911, over a hundred years ago, and Ruth has been a member for almost one third of that time. She joined 35 years ago on retirement from her role as grade two teacher/librarian at Windsor Primary School.

Over the years with the club, Ruth has been Club Secretary and Treasurer. She has been generous to the club, donating the cost of a badly needed lawn mower so that club members could do the required maintenance. The mower was dubbed "Miss Ruth" after the manner of the dancing pin up girl nose-art that was painted on many World War II Allied aircraft.

She has also been generous with her time when it comes to teaching newcomers. Jennifer, our current Treasurer, said: "I have been with the club for 5 years and so many times Ruth has assisted me to get a stroke right. When making a hoop she would say, "You must follow through. Wipe the baby's bottom."

Ruth is a former B Grade champion and continues to play a creditable game. If her mood is sunny she will often skip across the lawn.

Ruth, long may you continue to entertain and inspire us!

Congratulations to Ruth from Croquet Vic on reaching her 95th birthday in such good order. A model for the rest of us to follow...



Elsternwick President Amy Tennant with Ruth, receiving flowers from MP David Southwick



Ruth cuts her cake, with Croquet Vic Vice President Kate Patrick.

Photos by: Kay Schmidt





GVCA Season Opening

The Goulburn Valley Croquet Association season opening was held at Victoria's most northerly associate club, Deniliquin (NSW), on Wednesday 8 August 2018.

The day began and continued with showers that kindly only fell during morning tea, the lunch break and afternoon tea! There was a pleasing representation of associated GVCA clubs, and friendly games of association and golf croquet were enjoyed according to preference.

GVCA president Kenn Boal ran the first hoop and wished everyone a good year of croquet. Photos by local news photographer Jamie Lowe.





New Event for Bendigo Festival of Croquet

The Bendigo Festival this year should be bigger and better than ever. We have moved to a warmer and hopefully drier time slot of 29th September to 3rd October.

Our program includes Golf Croquet on 29-30 Sept. and Association Croquet on 1-3 Oct.

An exciting new innovation is to have a Short Croquet (14 pt. six hoops with each ball plus peg outs) event on 1st Oct. as a warm up for the AC tournament on 2-3 Oct. Entry for the Short Croquet will be free and matches will last no longer than one hour, so we should get several games in the day. Good prize money is on offer, but entries will be limited, so don't miss out on this new fun event!!

Bill Humphreys N.D.C.A.









Community Bank Delivers for Local Groups

The Beechworth Bendigo Bank has continued its ongoing support to small volunteer groups in the township by handing out \$35,600 in community grants last week.

Branch Manager Rani Macaulay said the money is donated to community groups for events and initiatives that contribute to the growth and prosperity of the local area.

"The 14 recipients all had projects that they wanted to develop to improve their clubs and services for the betterment of the community." she said.

Alan Holt from the Beechworth Senior Citizens Croquet Club was thankful to the bank and its staff for their contribution of \$2090 . "We will be upgrading the croquet lawns and buying 2 sets of quadway competition hoops which are a lot less forgiving than the ones we have at the moment," he said.

Maria Harvey Beechworth CC

Article is courtesy of 'The Ovens and Murray Advertiser' by Wendy Stephens 26th July 2018



Supporting the community: Terry Walsh, Maria Harvey and Alan Holt (centre) from the Beechworth Senior Citizens CC were thrilled to accept a donation from Darren Carr (left) and Steve Graham (right) from the Bendigo Bank.

Recruiting New Members.....Where are the Young Ones?

During my recent croquet playing visit to England I was asked about the state of croquet in Victoria. How many Clubs do you have? Are your player numbers increasing? Is Golf Croquet popular? Are new players learning Association? Are you attracting young people?

These questions arose because the results of a regular five-yearly survey carried out by the English Croquet Association had just been released. Despite a large increase in numbers, certain trends have emerged.

There are now 7,500 players in 211 Clubs in England, an increase of 23% from 5 years ago. The median age is 70. 61% are male and 39% female. 34% are predominately AC players and 66% GC. Of the AC players, 77% are male and 23% female. 26% of all A C players have been playing more than 40 years.

When details of the new recruits were examined there were two striking features:

- 1. The average age of the recruits was 66
- 2. 72% of new recruits are GC only, 18% AC only, and 10% play both.

While the raw number of recruits to croquet is satisfactory, the number of players under the age of 60 is not being replaced. For example, fifteen years ago, 31% of all players were under 60, 14% under 50, and 6% under 40. Now, only 11% are under 60, 6% under 50, and 1% under 40. 82% are retired.

These figures were no surprise to me. During my visit I played 50 matches; 45 against men, the vast majority over 70, with only two under 40, and five "mature" ladies.

Another area of concern in England is that many administrators, coaches and referees who have been in the game for decades are getting older. If the average age of new players is 66, when are they going to get sufficient experience and qualifications to take over these roles?

A quick examination of some recent Croquet Victoria address books indicates our numbers have increased and our number of Clubs is steady, but are we replicating the trends so evident in England?

If so, what can we do about it?

More importantly, what are we doing about it?

Bill Humphreys Golden Square Croquet Club



The New Golf Croquet Rules -John van der Touw

The World Croquet Federation released the new 5th edition of the Golf Croquet Rules in July. The consultation draft which preceded them can be disregarded, as the new rules are different in some respects, especially the wrong ball rule. This article highlights some of the main changes from the 4th edition of the Rules. The new rules come into force in Australia on 1st January 2019.

Links to the new rules and some supporting documents can be found on the WCF website at http://www.worldcroquet.org.uk/index.php/croquet-information/golf-croquet.

For a more detailed version of this article, see croquetvic.asn.au/golf.php.

There will be workshops held in each Victorian region later in the year helping players and referees to understand the new rules.

Faults. There are no longer non-striking and striking faults. They have been combined into a single category called "Faults". This is achieved by changing the definition of the striking period to include the period when most non-striking faults occurred (see below). The penalty for a fault is similar to what it used to be for a striking fault. Some actions that were non-striking faults will not be treated as faults at all but will be dealt with under a new rule on "Interference by a Player". For those situations, stationary balls are replaced, and moving balls affected are placed where they would have finished without the interference, and there is no penalty.

Striking period. Under the new rules, "the striking period starts when a player takes a stance with apparent intent to play a stroke". It starts earlier than in the old rules and applies to any player who apparently intends to play any ball.

Fault or interference. Actions that used to be treated as non-striking faults will be treated as faults if they occur during the striking period and were committed by the player playing (or apparently intending to play) the stroke. They will be treated as interference if they occur outside the striking period or, if during the striking period, were committed by a player other than the one playing or attempting to play the stroke.

Removed from the list of faults. Resting the shaft of the mallet or a hand or arm on the ground or an outside agency or against any part of the legs or feet are no longer faults. Playing a stroke before the previous turn has ended is also no longer a fault, but it will be penalized under a different rule called "Overlapping Play".

Stroke. A "stroke" has a clearer and broader definition. It can be a valid shot or a wrong ball or a fault. It can even be a wrong ball and a fault at the same time. The stroke is considered to have been played with the ball the player intended to play regardless of whether contact with that ball was first or second, or even if there was no contact. A player will be able to deem a stroke to have been played. There are rules covering fault and wrong ball in the same stroke, and rules covering interference and fault or wrong ball in the same stroke.

Action after a fault. The non-offending side still chooses what to do with the balls, but if they are left where they stopped, a hoop run by the non-offending side will be counted. If the balls are replaced, no point is scored for any ball. There is no additional penalty for committing more than one fault in a stroke. The limit of claims for a fault has changed slightly. There is still no remedy if the non-offending side has played a stroke, valid or invalid, but there is also no remedy under certain circumstances if the offending side has played a stroke, e.g. after replaying a stroke that was required by the rules, or after an extra stroke in a handicap game.

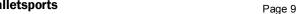
Action after a wrong ball. The wrong ball rule has changed considerably from what it was in the old rules as well as compared with the consultation draft.

The most common wrong ball play. For the most common situation where the striker has played his partner ball in singles, the non-offender can replace-and-replay (the only remedy under the old rules) or to apply a ball swap. The non-offender also has this choice if the striker's partner has played his own ball in doubles. In both cases, the striker's side has played a ball that they own, but the ball was played out of sequence.

Ball swap. With the ball swap option, the last stroke is treated as valid except that the positions of the ball played in the last stroke and its partner ball are swapped. Any points scored in the last stroke are counted for the owners of the balls that scored the point. The non-offending side then plays the ball next in sequence after the ball that should have been played.

Other wrong ball plays. If the striker's partner played the striker's ball, then replace-and-replay applies (no option). If the striker's side plays an opponent's ball, replace-and-replay also applies (no option). What was often referred to as the "full penalty" no longer applies for these offences. **Continued next page.**





The New Golf Croquet Rules -John van der Touw continued

There are separate rules for what are called "Special Situations". These include previous stroke played with opponent ball, same side played successive strokes and wrong ball and fault in the same stroke. Under the old rules, a side could condone its own wrong ball by playing out of turn, but that problem has been addressed.

Status of earlier strokes. Except for the "Special Situations", when play is stopped after a wrong ball, all strokes before the last stroke are treated as valid and points scored count for the owners of the balls that scored the points.

Offside. There have been some clarifications and changes to the offside rule.

A ball is not an offside ball if it reached its final position as a result of contact between it and a ball of the opposing side at any time in the last turn in which it moved.

If a player plays an onside ball before a direction has been given about their offside ball, the onside ball cannot now be recalled.

If a player plays an offside ball before a direction has been given about it, the offside ball can be recalled but only if it is to be directed to a penalty area.

One-yard semi-circular penalty areas replace the penalty spots. Penalty areas are also used for one of the "special" wrong ball situations and when a hoop has been run out of order.

Some other changes to the Rules.

A ball can score a hoop even if it touches a scoring clip attached to the hoop.

The position occupied by a ball at the end of a turn is that in which it appears to have stopped for at least five seconds or (if it needs to be tested) the position that is agreed upon or adjudicated.

The definition of the boundary is the same as before but, under the new rules, a ball has left the court as soon as any part of it would touch a straight edge raised vertically from the boundary (the same as for association croquet).

POTTER MALLETS

Making croquet mallets is my hobby. Every mallet is handcrafted from local woods to release its natural beauty of grain, texture and colour. All mallets are therefore individual and unique. Most are of redgum (milled in 1888), others of sycamore, elm, black wattle, etc. Rectangular or round block. Handles are



Every mallet sold means I can then enjoy making another, and I will also donate \$10 to the Fred Hollows Foundation.

p&p \$20 Vic, \$25 interstate, free post for second mallet. email for latest brochure

There were eight Ouestions & Answers in on the old and new golf croquet rules in the March and April editions of Malletsports. Answer for the new rules were based on the Consultation Draft. The answers for one of those question is

Q5. The red ball is in the jaws of the hoop (in hoop running position). It is blue to play and he tries to jump the red ball with the black ball in singles. His jump shot fails and, in the process, the red ball is knocked through the hoop.

different under the final version if the new rules.

A5. (New Rules) Since the black ball was played out of sequence but was played and owned by the striker, the opponent (red/yellow) has the choice of replace-and-replay or a ball swap option. The ball swap option is explained above. In this case, if ball swapping was chosen, it would mean that the stroke played with the black ball is treated as valid except that the positions of the black and blue balls would be swapped. Any points scored in the stroke are counted for the owners of the balls that scored the point (so red's hoop would count), and the red ball would be played next (since it follows in sequence with the ball that should have been played last).



Vale – Connie Perry (1925 – 2018)

Members of the Kew Croquet Club were saddened by the recent death of Life Member Mrs Connie Perry. Connie joined the Club in 1982 and has been a wonderful club member for more than 35 years. She was President then Secretary in the late 1980's through early 1990's and played a significant part in holding the Club together through a very difficult time in its history.

Connie was also the Club AC Coach for many years when that was the only form of croquet played. Connie will be long remembered as an outstanding Life Member of the Kew Croquet Club.

Vale - Judy Brown

Judy was a much loved and respected member of Ballarat Western Croquet Club. Judy, and her husband Robert, have been great supporters of the Club. If there was a working bee, tournament or social day, she was there helping. Members like Judy are the backbones of a Club. You could always rely on her to help with whatever needed doing.

Judy really enjoyed her croquet and you knew you were in for a fun game if you were playing with or against her.

We will miss her happy smiling face.

From all the members at Ballarat Western Croquet Club



Vale - John Copping

Ballarat Alexandra Croquet Club mourn the passing in July of their friend and valued member John Copping.

John and his wife Margaret joined Ballarat Alexandra CC five years ago after his retirement from work.

After an active life in other sports, John took up croquet with great enthusiasm and success. John partnered Eily Kelly winning the President's Trophy Golf Doubles in 2013-2014.

Since joining, John made a great contribution to the club holding the positions of Treasurer (2 terms) and member of the Activities and Property Committees.

We will miss his big smile, ready laugh and tall stories.

Pat Smith Alexandra Ballarat CC





auscroquetco@gmail.com

Dawson 2000 International MKII Croquet Balls

1ST/2nd/3rd Sets

Association Clips

1st/2nd/3rd Sets

Now Available

Mallets

Corner Flags (set of 4)

- Plain
- Embroidered with club name (photos available on request)

Coming Soon

Golf Clips

Centre Pegs



Australia's only croquet ball manufacturer performs his niche craft in a Humpty Doo shed

By ABC News: Terry McDonald

Paul Manwaring owns Dawson's Croquet Company, based at Humpty Doo. Croquet may not seem at first glance to be the most Territory of ball sports, but in a shed in rural Darwin, competition-standard croquet balls are being made.

It's a career Paul Manwaring never thought he'd pursue; prior to making croquet balls he was a gardener at a Northern Territory school, doing a bit of plastering work on the side.

Now he's one of only a handful of people in the world working in this niche field.

He stumbled upon the Australian Croquet Company while playing croquet in Melbourne with his parents.

"I was down south and I heard that the club needed more balls and they mentioned something about [the ball manufacturer] selling the business, so I looked into it and followed through and bought it," he said.

Mr Manwaring bought the business from Bryan Dawson, a legendary croquet player, who concocted a special mix that makes what players describe as the perfect croquet ball.



"I met with him a few times and he showed me how to do it and then I moved it up here to Humpty Doo," he said.

"It's pretty scientific, it starts from a plastic base and then you stir it, mould it and press it."

The operation runs out of Mr Manwaring's shed, where the moulds are set and pressed at a special temperature. Three hours later, they're prised from their case. He then polishes, packs, and ships the balls to more than 300 clubs across Australia.

He is one of only three approved makers worldwide, and they are the ball of choice in the United Kingdom, Canada, and New Zealand.

The sport's premier governing body — the Croquet Association — has just three approved suppliers: in Taiwan, Kentucky in the US, and the Australian Croquet Company.

"Every three years I have to send them to England to the Croquet Association where Alan Pidcock puts them through a rigorous process," Mr Manwaring said.

Mr Pidcock was the world leader in manufacturing croquet mallets before he retired in 2016.

Mr Manwaring is proud he was able to save the business from shutting down completely; its previous owner had been trying to sell it for years. "I like being able to keep small manufacturing going in Australia," he said. "It's a niche product that people love around the world, so I decided that I'd keep on Bryan's legacy and keep making the balls."

More than 3,000 kilometres south in Adelaide, every local club uses Paul's Dawson croquet balls, and president of the South Australian Croquet Association Eileen Ferguson counts herself a fan. "They are the best I've ever played with," she said, "I've played with about five different sorts of balls since I've been playing, they're just fabulous. "It's so great that we can have and buy croquet balls made right here in Australia ... it's really amazing."

Ms Ferguson said many people were surprised to discover Australia's sole croquet ball manufacturer was housed in a shed in Humpty Doo, on a dusty street just down the road from jumping crocodile tours.

Mr Manwaring agrees, noting that croquet is a sport normally associated with royals, manicured English gardens, and Alice in Wonderland.

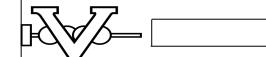
"It's rather strange actually ... No flamingos around here!" he said.

Article by Elias Clure and Robert Baird









Upcoming Events at Victorian Croquet Centre

Aug

25-26 GC Selectors' Invitation; range -6 to 20 Lorraine Gutcher 5134 4990 25-26 GC Victoria v Victoria A; range -6 to 20 Jim Saunders 5250 5250

5-7 GC ACA Gold Medal; range -6 to 20 in NSW 8-11 GC ACA Men's and Women's Ch'ships; range -6 to 20 in NSW 12-16 GC ACA Interstate Shield; range -6 to 20 in NSW 22-23 AC VCA Women's Invitation; range -3 to 20) Kevin Beard 22-23 AC VCA Handicap Championships; range -3 to 20) 0417 572 232

30-30 GC VCA Under 18 Ch'ships; range -6 to 20 Lorraine Gutcher 5134 4990 Oct

12-15 AC ACA President's 8's; range -3 to 20

20-21 AC Divisional Ch'ships; range -3 to 20 Kevin Beard 0417 572 232 20-21 AC State Squad Doubles; range -3 to 20 Stephen Forster 0402 303 604

27-28 AC Men's Championships; range -3 to 20)Kevin Beard 27-28 AC Women's Championships' range -3 to 20)0417 572 232

Association Tournaments around the State

3-4 MVCA Open T'ment @ Charlton; range -3 to 20 Anne Kenny 0408 547 973 7-9 Brighton Open Tournament; range -3 to 11 Lesley Cavalier 9596 3581

14-16 Brighton Open Tournament; range -3 to 11 Lesley Cavalier 9596 3581

24-26 Horsham/Kalimna Park Open T'ment; range -3 to 20 Kay Blake 5384 8216 Oct

2-3 Festival of Croquet at Bendigo; range 03 to 20 4-5 Shepparton Open Tournament; range -3 to 20

6-7 Quarry Hill Open Tournament; range -3 to 5

20-21 Boort Open Tournament; range -3 to 20

Gwen Denison 5821 5446 Lois Kirk 0400 060 346 Ian Potter 5455 2774

Bill Humphreys 5447 3439

22-23 Hamilton Open Tournament; range -3 to 20

Doris Lanyon 5572 2914

Golf Croquet Tournaments around the State

Sept

8-9 Leongatha H'cap Sgles T'ment; range -6 to 20 Nanette Meredith 0412 187 608 10-11 MVCA @ Charlton; range -6 to 20

15-16 Drouin Handicap Sgles; range -6 to 20

22-23 Lakes Entrance Open T'ment; range -6 to

29-30 Bendigo Festival of Croquet; range -6 to 20 Chris Eiffert 5449 7173

6-7 Ballarat & Dist. Open T'ment; range -6 to 20 9-11 Quarry Hill Open; Sgles & Dbles

13-15 Rich River Open; ranges -6 to 5, 6-8, 9-16

15-15 Maffra Open Day; range -6 to 20

17-19 Horsham Open T'ment; range -6 to 20

20-21 MCC Open Tournament; range-6 to 20

20-21 Warragul Open T'ment; range -6 to 20

27-28 Bairnsdale Sgles T'ment; range -6 to 20

Anne Kenny 5491 1673 Heather Bullen 0407 821 650 20 Rhonda Smith 0432 350 224

Nancy Hatherell5334 1611 Don Batchelor 0466 606 147 Bev Floyd 0400 799 987 Anne Howard 5141 1253 Rae Hill 0428 504 733 Colin Melville 9844 2141 Patti Bransgrove 0426 534 121 Mark Norwood 0481 083 835

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Submissions for the next edition due by the 15th September please







MSV

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