

Publicity Network March 2024 Newsletter

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A great news story below from Elsternwick, thank you for your contribution.

ELSTERNWICK CROQUET CLUB

The Elsternwick Croquet Club is a gem of a club. Nestled in the back of the historic Hopetoun Gardens, the club is a bit of a secret, elevated as it is from passers-by. I came to the club through a U3A program and was hooked from the beginning. The friendliness of the existing members made it easy to settle in and I soon feel part of the club.

I became President last year and felt pretty daunted by the role. However, our club members have been deeply involved in everything croquet for many years, so I had nothing to fear. ECC works as a whole club, and everyone brings something to the table.

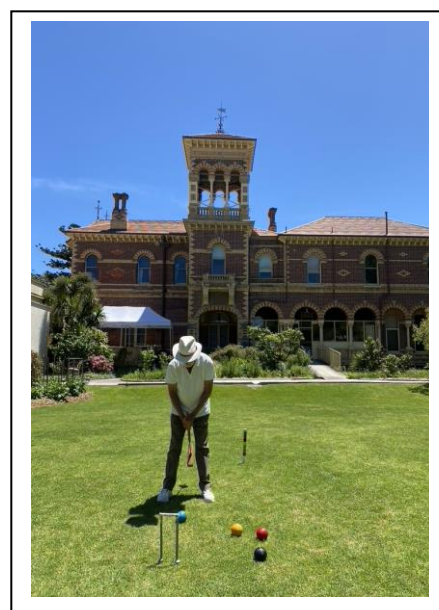
Speaking of tables we had a fabulous response to our Seniors Month of Croquet and High Tea. Scones, cakes and slices appeared from everywhere with members demonstrating their culinary skills. These treats were all served up on our cut crystal plates and vintage crockery. It was like a month-long party. Best of all, the welcoming spirit of the club gave all participants a wonderful welcome and many have stayed with us as members.

I really believe that Croquet is a misunderstood sport. Young people love it as much as adults. In 2023 in collaboration with a nearby school we had 150 primary students at the hoops, and it proved a great success. In addition, a nearby childcare centre joined in the action. It was delightful to see 3-4-year-olds determined to get that ball through the hoops. On weekends we set up a few hoops in Hopetoun Gardens for families to enjoy. I would like to encourage more young people to play croquet.

Halloween brought the idea of 'Glow in the Dark' Croquet. This was a community event. Children came in costume early followed by adults in equally spectacular costumes as night fell. Our glittering hoops made for an interesting game to say the least. It was fun to decorate the club room and share it with our community.

Over the summer months ECC have hosted Croquet at Rippon Lea Estate. The event was booked out with participants enjoying a quick lesson of Golf Croquet followed by a game in this beautiful venue. It was a hark back to the old days of backyard Croquet where the lawns were a bit woolly but the players eager. Many generations of families played with grandparents challenging their children and their grandchildren.

In all, it is a delight to be part of ECC. Sally Preston



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