



**Minutes of Croquet Victoria Council Meeting
held Monday 20 April 2026 via Zoom**

1 Attendance

1.1 Present:

1.1.1 Directors:

Kate Patrick (President), Sarina Cevaal-Hewitt (Secretary/NEDCA), Claire Keating (Treasurer), Robin Russell (Member), Rita Jenkins (Member), Ian Potter (Murray Valley/Member), Treesh Reeve (Bayside), Wayne Worlidge (EMCA), Janelle Morris (Geelong), Tom Lacey (Gippsland), Joan Loorham (Goldfields), Trish Pedrotti (Goulburn Valley), Damien Kennedy (NDCA), Terri Manwaring (SEMCA), Russell Worland (SWCA), Kevin Beard (WMCMA),

1.1.2 Observers:

Minn Stewart (Elsternwick Croquet Club),

1.2 Apologies:

Damien Hadfield (NDCA), Judy Hodder (Bairnsdale), Rachel Cousins (Wimmera), Stephen Forster (Vice-President).

2 Opening/Declaration of Interest

The President opened the meeting at 6.30 pm, acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, paying her respects to elders past, present and emerging.

The meeting congratulated Stephen Forster on his Australian 2026 Association Croquet Championship win and the Victorian Team as Eire Cup Runners-up.

Claire Keating declared an interest in Agenda Item 7.2.1.

3 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Council Meeting

Minutes of Council Meeting held 16 March 2026 be adopted as a true and correct record with following amendments.

6.1 President's Report:

The President thanked colleagues and members for their support in her recent bereavement.

7.1.4 Marketing & Publicity Livestreaming Recommendation:

The meeting agreed in principle to support the approach to live streaming proposed in the paper from the Marketing and Publicity Sub-Committee.

Further to this, it was agreed that

- Arrangements for funding live streaming would be considered at the April meeting
- Marketing and Publicity to meet with Tournaments and Fixtures to prepare a program of events to be live streamed and an engagement plan.

Resolved that the above amendments be accepted.

Action Secretary

Resolved that Minutes of Council Meeting held 16 March 2026 be adopted as a true and correct record with above amendments.

<https://croquetvic.asn.au/minutes/20260316Council.pdf>

3.1 Business Arising from Minutes of Previous Meetings:

3.1.1 Wheelchair Availability at Victorian Croquet Centre:

Clubs to be canvassed re usage of a wheelchair in previous emergencies.

Action Health & Safety Sub-Committee

6.35 pm Observer Minn Stewart joins meeting.

3.1.2 Understairs Storage at Victorian Croquet Centred:

The VCC Sub-Committee noted the difficulty getting quotes for the proposed work involved in creating a storage space under the stairs in the clubroom and improving the safety of the stairs.

Resolved that project be approved, provisionally up to \$15,000 value and reassessed upon receiving final designs and pricing.

4 Adoption of Financial Report

Attached as Annex A

Resolved that Financial Report be adopted.

4.1 Business Arising from Financial Report:

4.1.1 Drawdown from Investment Portfolio:

Resolved that Council approve drawdown of \$40,000.00 from the Investment Portfolio.

4.1.2 JBWere Reports:

Resolved that JBWere Reports not be included in online version of Meeting Minutes.

5 Consent Items

5.1 President's Report:

5.2 Secretary's Report: including correspondence:

Attached as Annex B

5.3 Regional Reports:

Attached as Annex C

5.4 Sub-Committee Minutes Received and Distributed:

Marketing & Publicity Sub-Committee: 1 April 2026

Tournament & Fixtures Sub-Committee: 12 February 2026

Constitution Review Working Group Report: 1 April 2026

Resolved that Consent Items be accepted.

6 Business Arising from Consent Items

6.1 President's Report:

The President reported attendance at the 2026 Association Croquet County Regionals and Sub-Committee Meetings.

6.3 Regional Reports:

Gippsland Regional Director - Tom Lacey - advised that three new Golf Croquet Referees had been accredited in the Gippsland Region and that Wonthaggi Croquet Club had been successful in obtaining a \$2,000.00 grant towards essential repairs to club mower.

SEMCA Director - Terri Manwaring - noted the progress towards establishment of the sports reserve in Trueman's Road Reserve, Tootgarook to accommodate many sports and thanked those at Croquet Victoria who had supported the project since inception.

Resolved that Verbal Reports be accepted.

7 General Business

7.1 Matters for Decision:

7.1.1 Assistants to Secretary/Treasurer:

Resolved to add a new clause to Croquet Victoria By-Laws

10. ASSISTANT POSITIONS:

ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY and ASSISTANT TO THE TREASURER

Council is empowered to appoint members of the Association to the

positions of Assistant to the Secretary and Assistant to the Treasurer. The

role of the person in each of these positions is to assist the Secretary /

Treasurer in the execution of their responsibilities as set down in the

Constitution and in these By-Laws. Appointment to these positions does not

carry with it appointment to the Committee of Management.

Renumber subsequent clauses.

Action Secretary

7.2 Matters for Discussion:

7.2.1 Croquet Australia 2026 Annual Report:

The meeting noted Croquet Victoria's contribution.

7.2.2 Fuel Reimbursement Rate During Current Situation:

Discussion ongoing.

7.2.3 VCC Sub-Committee Terms of Reference:

Current VCC Sub-Committee Terms of Reference related to the Victorian Croquet Centre listed below to be handled by another Sub-Committee/person:

- Tracking overall usage
- Managing premises and scheduled events
- Generating additional revenue
- Driving participation

Collaboration with VCC Business Plan Working Group to address above tasks.

7.2.4 Livestreaming Submission:

Resolved that Livestreaming Schedule of Events and costing (previously distributed) be adopted.

Spending to be monitored with possibility of use of unspent Development Initiative funds to be considered as program progresses.

8 Other Business

8.1 Other Matters:

8.1.1 Secretarial Matters:

The Secretary the following matters:

- Sub-Committee Minutes naming convention.
- Annual Club Surveys outstanding.
- Tournament Results Unreported.

Action Sub-Committees
Action Regional Directors
Action Regional Directors

8.2 Meeting Recap:

- Livestreaming Project endorsed.
- Regional Directors delegated to follow up Annual Club Surveys/Tournaments Results unreported.
- Understairs Storage/Stair Safety project approved.
- Survey of clubs re wheelchair usage.
- Fuel Reimbursement Rate.
- VCC Sub-Committee Terms of Reference to be reviewed.
- By-Laws amended to include Assistant Secretary/Treasurer position descriptions.

9 Close Meeting 8.18 pm

10 Next Meetings

2026

| | | | | |
|-----------|--------|----|----------------------------------|------|
| May | Monday | 18 | Council | Zoom |
| June | Monday | 15 | Council Face to Face at Cairnlea | |
| July | Monday | 20 | Council | Zoom |
| August | Monday | 17 | Council | Zoom |
| September | Monday | 21 | Council | Zoom |
| October | Monday | 19 | Council | Zoom |
| November | Monday | 16 | Council | Zoom |
| December | Monday | 21 | Council Face to Face at Cairnlea | |

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Annex A | Financial Report |
| Annex B | Secretary's Report |
| Annex C | Regional Reports |

**Annex A to
Croquet Victoria Council Meeting Minutes
20 April 2026**

March 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT

The INTERIM Financial reports for year ended 31 March 2026 are attached.

Provided are:

- Summary level Profit and Loss including full year vs budget and prior year and indicative VCA and VCC split
- Balance Sheet

There are some year-end adjustments, including some accruals and JBWere final numbers still to be confirmed, so these reports are interim.

Key points to note:

The Interim Net Operating result for the year is \$206,090 compared to a budget operating deficit of \$118,576 (\$324k difference) and prior year surplus of \$94,871 (\$111k difference).

The interim overall result is a surplus of \$422,203 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$28,576 (\$451k difference).

The key differences in the full year interim result vs budget are:

- Higher investment income by \$33k plus the JBWere windfall of \$160k.
- VCA Affiliation fees are slightly above budget due to more members this year.
- CA Affiliation fees re higher due to more members and a rate change through the year.
- Tournament income is higher than budget and line ball with last year. The inaugural GC mixed doubles tournament was a big success, netting over \$1k.
- CA Court higher is \$5k lower than budget mainly due to very low numbers at the Ricochet Singles and Doubles and lower numbers than budgeted at the AC singles and doubles.
- Catering and bar revenue is lower than budgeted, matched by lower than budgeted catering and bar expenses.
- Lower administration spend due to continued lower Admin support than expected and lower legal fees, partially offset by higher JBWere fees (\$4k) and webmaster costs (\$26k).
- Lower Committee and Co-ordinator spend including \$18k not spent on Development Initiatives and some costs funded from grant money.
- Junior scholarship spend was \$1.7k under budget but up \$2.7k from last year.
- Lower VCC building costs compared to budget (\$36k), mainly relating to Repairs and Maintenance (\$26k).
- Lower court costs (\$39k). We have not been billed for water since November and I am still attempting to get an estimate of the amount payable. I am also following up some other accruals.
- The unrealised gain on the Investment portfolio YTD is \$216k, higher than budgeted but (as expected) reduced since the end of February.

Income

- a) The JB Were investment portfolio income for the month was \$25k and \$253k for the full year (excluding windfall). This is based on interim numbers and there may be some movement when final figures for year end are provided later this month.

Expenses

- b) Expenses for the month included Honoraria paid to President, Secretary and Treasurer in accordance with the approved budget and contribution to Croquet Scores of \$1,200.
- c) Accrued JB Were Management fees for the quarter is an estimate of \$10k.
- d) Full year depreciation of plant and equipment of \$9k was charged at year end, together with the monthly building depreciation charge of \$6.9k

Balance Sheet

- e) Interim Net Assets at 31 March were \$9,865,045. The movement in Net Assets for the year was an increase of \$422k.
- f) See attachment for a summary page of the JB Were portfolio at 31 March showing the value of \$6,114,774, an increase of \$506k (after drawdowns) for the year which equates to a return of 10%.
- g) The value of Land and Buildings of \$3,670,221 has decreased by \$83.6k reflecting depreciation for the year.
- h) Plant and Equipment has increased by \$7,602 reflecting capital acquisitions during the year (security system, hot water system and defibrillator) offset by full year depreciation of \$9k.
- i) Accounts receivable of \$6.2k is predominantly Affiliation fees outstanding.
- j) Accounts payable of \$13k includes \$10k payable to JB Were.

Cash Outlook

The operating bank account balance at 31 March was \$24k. I will provide an update on cash outlook at the meeting.

The Finance sub-committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

Claire Keating
Honorary Treasurer
16 April 2026

Victorian Croquet Association Inc.

Summary Profit & Loss vs Budget and Prior Year, VCA and VCC indicative split

April 2025 To March 2026

| | This year | Budgeted | \$ Difference | Last Year | \$ Difference | VCA | VCC |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| INCOME | | | | | | | |
| JBWERE | \$413,745.87 | \$220,000.00 | \$193,745.87 | \$248,305.95 | \$165,439.92 | \$213,165.87 | \$200,580.00 |
| VCA AFFILIATIONS | \$108,001.53 | \$100,254.55 | \$7,746.98 | \$103,618.22 | \$4,383.31 | \$103,165.16 | \$4,836.37 |
| CA AFFILIATIONS/INSURANCE | \$121,804.37 | \$121,090.90 | \$713.47 | \$107,593.67 | \$14,210.70 | \$121,804.37 | |
| MERCHANDISE/PENNANT | \$1,697.12 | \$2,450.00 | (\$752.88) | \$3,198.15 | (\$1,501.03) | \$1,697.12 | |
| TOURNAMENTS | \$15,668.59 | \$11,630.00 | \$4,038.59 | \$15,556.38 | \$112.21 | | \$15,668.59 |
| Other Operating Income | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$14,179.88 | (\$14,179.88) | | |
| CATERING/BAR | \$2,696.41 | \$6,000.00 | (\$3,303.59) | \$7,446.57 | (\$4,750.16) | | \$2,696.41 |
| PREMISES/COURTS/RENT | \$22,045.64 | \$29,600.00 | (\$7,554.36) | \$25,986.05 | (\$3,940.41) | | \$22,045.64 |
| BEQUESTS/DONATIONS | \$0.00 | \$1,000.00 | (\$1,000.00) | \$1,045.00 | (\$1,045.00) | | |
| GRANTS | \$12,388.79 | \$20,800.00 | (\$8,411.21) | \$26,443.33 | (\$14,054.54) | \$12,388.79 | |
| Total INCOME | \$698,048.32 | \$512,825.45 | \$185,222.87 | \$553,373.20 | \$144,675.12 | \$452,221.31 | \$245,827.01 |
| Gross Profit | \$698,048.32 | \$512,825.45 | \$185,222.87 | \$553,373.20 | \$144,675.12 | | |
| EXPENSES | | | | | | | |
| CA AFFILIATIONS/INSURANCE | \$121,781.51 | \$121,090.90 | \$690.61 | \$109,282.72 | \$12,498.79 | \$121,781.51 | |
| ADMINISTRATION VCA | \$97,484.73 | \$105,978.00 | (\$8,493.27) | \$65,439.25 | \$32,045.48 | \$56,522.26 | \$40,962.47 |
| COMMITTEES | \$16,391.85 | \$57,780.00 | (\$41,388.15) | \$5,411.12 | \$10,980.73 | \$16,391.85 | |
| COUNCIL/COM travel | \$1,933.10 | \$2,200.00 | (\$266.90) | \$1,952.51 | (\$19.41) | \$1,933.10 | |
| GRANTS | \$11,706.78 | \$20,000.00 | (\$8,293.22) | \$28,029.31 | (\$16,322.53) | \$11,706.78 | |
| UNDER 21S SCHOLARSHIP | \$4,269.58 | \$6,000.00 | (\$1,730.42) | \$1,545.58 | \$2,724.00 | \$4,269.58 | |
| TOURNAMENTS | \$6,449.32 | \$7,310.00 | (\$860.68) | \$8,183.27 | (\$1,733.95) | | \$6,449.32 |
| MERCHANDISE/PENNANT | \$1,816.34 | \$3,000.00 | (\$1,183.66) | \$4,588.22 | (\$2,771.88) | \$1,816.34 | |
| VCC BUILDING | \$160,178.08 | \$196,852.00 | (\$36,673.92) | \$142,990.06 | \$17,188.02 | | \$160,178.08 |
| CATERING/BAR | \$1,202.31 | \$4,400.00 | (\$3,197.69) | \$3,329.60 | (\$2,127.29) | | \$1,202.31 |
| VCC COURTS | \$52,380.88 | \$91,700.00 | (\$39,319.12) | \$73,841.41 | (\$21,460.53) | | \$52,380.88 |
| STATE TEAMS G & A | \$16,363.64 | \$15,090.91 | \$1,272.73 | \$13,909.10 | \$2,454.54 | \$16,363.64 | |
| Total EXPENSES | \$491,958.12 | \$631,401.81 | (\$139,443.69) | \$458,502.15 | \$33,455.97 | \$230,785.06 | \$261,173.06 |
| Operating Profit | \$206,090.20 | (\$118,576.36) | \$324,666.56 | \$94,871.05 | \$111,219.15 | \$221,436.25 | (\$15,346.05) |
| OTHER INCOME | | | | | | | |
| Realised fair value gains(losses) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$259,988.83 | (\$259,988.83) | | |
| Unrealised fair value gains(losses) | \$216,112.97 | \$90,000.00 | \$126,112.97 | (\$190,180.66) | \$406,293.63 | | |
| Total OTHER INCOME | \$216,112.97 | \$90,000.00 | \$126,112.97 | \$69,808.17 | \$146,304.80 | | |
| Net Profit/(Loss) | \$422,203.17 | (\$28,576.36) | \$450,779.53 | \$164,679.22 | \$257,523.95 | | |

Balance Sheet

As of March 2026

ABN: 91 903 271 264

| | | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Bank Accounts | | |
| Bendigo | \$24,005.29 | |
| Bendigo - Grants Account Holding | \$14,532.76 | |
| | -\$587.25 | |
| Total Bank Accounts | | \$37,950.80 |
| Total Current Assets | | \$37,950.80 |
| Accounts Receivable | | |
| Accounts Receivable | \$6,280.33 | |
| Total Accounts Receivable | | \$6,280.33 |
| JBWERE - Investment A/c | | \$6,114,774.01 |
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Cairnlea - Land and site works at cost | \$1,980,368.00 | |
| Building at cost | \$3,331,836.00 | |
| Accumulated depreciation | -\$1,641,983.00 | |
| Plant & Equipment | | |
| Plant and Equipment | \$242,307.58 | |
| Accumulated Depreciation | -\$183,320.98 | |
| Total Plant & Equipment | | \$58,986.60 |
| Total Fixed Assets | | \$3,729,207.60 |
| Total Assets | | \$9,888,212.74 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Accounts Payable | \$13,838.15 | |
| Total Current Liabilities | | \$13,838.15 |
| Tax Payable | | |
| GST Collected | \$4,001.45 | |
| GST Paid | -\$9,205.46 | |
| Total Tax Payable | | -\$5,204.01 |
| Grant Liabilities | | |
| Grants Received in Advance | \$14,532.76 | |
| Total Grant Liabilities | | \$14,532.76 |
| Total Liabilities | | \$23,166.90 |
| Net Assets | | \$9,865,045.84 |
| Equity | | |
| Reserves | | |
| General Reserve | \$7,703,572.44 | |
| Asset Revaluation Reserve | \$967,044.58 | |
| Retained Earnings | \$724,361.57 | |
| Current Earnings | \$422,203.17 | |
| Special Funds | | \$47,864.08 |
| Total Equity | | \$9,865,045.84 |

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Croquet Victoria Membership

3172 (17 April 2026)

AGM Timeline

Relevant notifications have been forwarded to clubs, Directors, Appointed Officers and Sub-Committees.

Tournaments Awaiting Results

Thirteen Association Croquet Tournaments completed awaiting results.

Ten Golf Croquet Tournaments completed awaiting results.

<https://croquetvic.asn.au/tournamentsunreported.php>

Director Training

Three Directors yet to complete Bullying & Harassment online module.

Six Alternate Directors yet to complete Bullying & Harassment online module.

One Director yet to complete a Governance module (The Start Line or Step-In Step-Up).

Five Alternate Directors yet to complete Governance online module.

Annual Club Survey

Thirteen of 86 clubs have yet to complete the survey.

revSport

A vast majority of our clubs are not taking advantage of the option to edit their homepage in revSport. When done well eg Bendigo Croquet Club, croquet is presented as a vibrant active sport which can be played at a welcoming club.

Regional Reports to Council 2026 - yearly report to be included in Annual Report

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 18 May 2026 | SWCA, |
| 17 August 2026 | EMCVA, Bayside |
| 19 October 2026 | Ballarat, Geelong, Goldfields, Wimmera |
| 14 December 2026 | GVCA, NDCA, Murray Valley |



Secretary

| Correspondence April Council Meeting | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In - Email | |
| 31 Mar 2026 | CAV - notification of lodgement of 2026 Annual Reports by 30 September 2026 |
| 2 Apr 2026 | SSEPEvents - notification of change of number of funding rounds to 4 per year |
| 6 Apr 2026 | Croquet Australia - reminder of Croquet Australia Director Nominations and Notice of Special Business |
| 7 Apr 2026 | Tim Murphy (Croquet Scores) - thank you for our continued financial support |
| 8 Apr 2026 | SRV - TMA Foundation Funding Report due |
| | Stephen Forster - thank you for athlete support funding |
| 9 Apr 2026 | Sec Cc'd - confirmation of lodgement of Croquet Australia Annual Report contribution |
| 10 Apr 2026 | Lois Kirk - thank you for athlete support funding |
| | Louise Vale - thank you for athlete support funding |
| 14 Apr 2026 | SSEP - grant funding response |
| Various | Vicsport eBulletins, SRV Grant opportunities, Gateball emails, clubs issues with revSport, |
| | |
| Out Email | |
| 8 Apr 2026 | Sec Cc'd -Croquet Australia - lodgment of contribution to Croquet Australia Annual Report |
| 9 Apr 2026 | Regions/Club/Directors - call for Notice of Motion of Special Business |
| | |
| Various | distribution of eBulletins, requests for information from regions and clubs to migrate to revSport. |

NEDCA REGIONAL REPORT

April 2026

NEDCA has 14 clubs and 360 members. Five clubs generally consider themselves social clubs. Our region covers a large area; it takes three hours to travel from Corryong to Cobram so engaging with all clubs is a challenge.



The region is in a sound financial position. The challenges we face are:

- filling Regional Committee of Management Positions
- serious lack of Golf Croquet Referees
- engaging with all clubs in such a large region
- finding the winning mindset to finally beat the Goulburn Valley after their success over the past five years in the Goulburn Valley V NEDCA Golf Croquet Inter-Regional.

Referees & Coaches

| Referees | Association Croquet | Golf Croquet | Ricochet | Gateball |
|----------|-----------------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| | 5 listed, none active | 7 | 4 | 0 |
| Coaches | 2 | 7 | 2 | 1 |

Workshops

A series of four workshops on Golf Croquet Rules are being delivered. The focus of these has been the rights and responsibilities of the player rather than becoming a referee.

Competitive Events

The NEDCA region hosts two competitive events open to members from other regions and individual clubs also host competitive events open to all.



Social Days

The NEDCA Region hosts two social days but eight of our fourteen clubs host one or two social days each year. A very busy calendar.

Club Reports

Albury Croquet Club:

Albury Croquet Club's membership remains fairly stable with a number of new members joining since a recent Come and Try Day. We have a stable and effective Committee of Management structure - focusing on member enjoyment, inclusion and compliance.

Our Court playing and training structure is well organised and we have members who are willing to volunteer for day-to-day maintenance at the club.

We have an active playing calendar, including intra club competitions, inter club events including Social Days within our region, and an annual Charity Day Competition to raise money for a local based charity.

Our financial situation is good due to the strong and prudent management of our finances and this has meant that we have been able to have ongoing asset management involving significant financial investment from the club. This includes improving the court playing surface, providing

better member amenities, improving club signage and the big one -the club now financing regular court maintenance.

Beechworth Croquet Club:

The Beechworth Croquet Club has experienced another successful year with the following notable highlights.

- Our membership has grown by about 10% over the last 12 months moving from 29 members to 32
- The Club has been successful in apply for a number of grants through the Indigo Shire Council, Bendigo Bank and other Victorian sports related departments. The funding that was achieved has allowed us to complete the following projects over the last 12 months:
 - Upgrade lighting on Court 1 to more effective and efficient LED lights
 - Install external lights under the verandah at clubrooms
 - Upgrade court facilities including the sprinkler system
 - Replace aging ball barriers

We are currently awaiting on the outcome of a grant application that will fund the installation of power to our external sheds as well as the installation of powered roller doors to those sheds

- Two long serving committee officials, Allan Holt and Maria Harvey, were acknowledged for their extended contributions to the club when they were granted life membership of the club
- After having won three of the last four NEDCA pennants (and runners up in the fourth), Beechworth is again entering a team into the 2026 NEDCA Pennant
- A Beechworth member will represent NEDCA in the Div 2 Regional Championships to be held in Cairnlea in April 2026
- The Club participated in the Seniors Month Come and Try activities and picked up several new players through that activity
- During December 2025, the club hosted several Christmas parties for local groups and businesses with interest already being shown for more in 2026

Benalla Croquet Club:

Benalla Croquet Club has enjoyed a positive year. The club currently has 27 members, including two associate members. Membership numbers have remained steady, with no overall change. During 2025, the club lost five members; however, these were replaced by five new members who joined following the Come & Try introductory course.

In January this year, the club conducted another successful four-week introductory croquet course as part of the Come & Try initiative in collaboration with U3A. Seventeen people registered for the course; however, six did not attend at all, and five only came to the first session. Three individuals from the group have since continued to participate in regular club days. What we are finding is that it's difficult to get men involved in croquet. We currently have only seven male members and two of those are associate members.

On a regular basis, around 80% of the club's 25 members participate in golf croquet every Tuesday and Thursday. Members take part in both singles and doubles matches. The club actively encourages members to attend local social days and participate in Pennant competitions. Additionally, a couple of our members compete in tournaments both locally and interstate.

Bright Croquet Club:

Bright is suffering on two fronts, membership down to 26 and the lack of interest from members to help out. Average age is 81 and we think this is the reason.

The club is still looking for that golden grant which is specially for lawn maintenance, plenty of cash around for uniforms and other unnecessary items but for the most important item, the playing surface nobody seems to care.

Cobram Croquet Club:

Hosted the Goulburn Valley V NEDCA Golf Croquet Inter-Regional on 15 August 2025. We have participated in the Moira Shire Active in April.

Corowa Civic Croquet Club

A social club, membership stable.

Corryong Croquet Club

Membership has declined. Difficult to engage with other clubs due to location.

Howlong Golf Resort Croquet:

Both a Golf Croquet Open Singles (May 2026) and a Golf Croquet Doubles Championships (October 2026) are scheduled this year. Many participants are returnees.

Twin City Croquet Club:

Twin City members are enjoying their croquet. We have welcomed local community members for NSW 2026 Seniors Festival (five will join the club) and engaged with Indie School Wodonga students for six weeks.

The Australian 2025 Golf Croquet Handicap Doubles and Singles Championships were hosted in September 2025. Whilst this is the last time Croquet Australia planned to schedule this event; a five-day Advantage Croquet event is planned for September 2026. Entries are mainly returning participants.

Two 'introduction to Association Croquet' have been completed. Another is planned soon to be hosted at Beechworth Croquet Club.

Walla Walla Croquet Club

Membership still at two.

Wangaratta Croquet Club

Wangaratta Croquet Club is a self-funded Club of approximately 30 members who primarily play Golf Croquet three days a week with a few playing Ricochet one day a week. We participate in the Regional Pennant competition annually.

The Club has three "A" courts and regularly holds Social Days on up to six "B" courts.

Wangaratta Lawn Tennis Croquet & Pickleball Club

We have lost members due to age and illness but are looking to find new members. We are very pleased with our lawns at the Wangaratta Lawn Tennis facility.

Wodonga Croquet Club:

Wodonga has the largest membership of a club within the region and supports the region by hosting regional competitive events.

Yarrowonga Mulwala Croquet Club:

We have a very healthy membership, have hosted Division 3 of the NEDCA Golf Croquet Qualifiers and will be hosting two Golf Croquet Coaching and Rules workshops in April 2026.

Gippsland Regional report: April 2026.

Summary:

Clubs throughout Gippsland hold external tournaments throughout the year which are well supported by players throughout Victoria. The recent Gippsland Regional qualifying tournament was held at Traralgon and had 29 players entering. It was great to see two Orbost members playing off for the Division 3 title, both are to be congratulated on a tightly fought out final, as are the winners of Divisions 1 and 2.

The Regional Finals held at Cairnlea was well run, as usual. Gippsland took home the Lefel Shield for the most hoops, and Shane Downie won Division 1 with 12 wins, 1 loss. Congratulations to each member of the team. Gippsland were well represented in all aspects of the tournament; the players, with Sue Downie and Sue Baker assisting the tournament manager throughout the weekend with court allocations, player movements, entering croquet-scores data etc, with Tom Lacey appointed the Tournament Referee.

Overall, Gippsland Croquet clubs are generally in a healthy financial and membership position, with a caveat that it would be good to see both of these improve. There are common challenges in increasing membership, maintaining good court conditions and equipment, and managing pest control.

There are several clubs whose members frequently travel within and outside of Gippsland to play at other clubs. The current fuel situation is a concern for many, and has made some reflect on attending tournaments and other events requiring travel.

Congratulations to Kevin Young, Morwell, for recently qualifying as a Golf Croquet referee. Hopefully, other players currently studying the Rules, Regulations and supporting documents will also become qualified referees soon. Reaccreditation of existing Gippsland referees will be programmed shortly. They will be contacted directly over the next few weeks.

Maurice Cevaal-Hewitt presented handicapping workshops at several clubs in Gippsland, and training on Ricochet at Traralgon. Traralgon will host a Ricochet tournament in June.

Lakes Entrance suggested that (VCA) having a Youth Ambassador, who is competent and successful at Croquet could be available to speak to Youth to ignite some interest through showing their passion for our great Sport. This could be done via video link if in person is an issue.

Individual club written reports follow:

Sale Croquet Club information for GCA report

Sale has had slow growth over the past couple of years and now has a membership of 30 but expect three or four inactive members may not renew this year. There are three prospective members who came to the club through our twilight sessions over summer.

Our annual come and try day does not attract many people, even though it is well publicised in the local paper and social media. Most years we gain one new member from such a day.

We have no juniors, no official coaches and three active referees.

The club is financially viable with good reserves. Our courts face a constant battle with rabbits although we have applied for a council grant to erect rabbit-proof netting around the club.

In the past year we have had a uniform grant from Youth Sport and Recreation and a council community grant to fund a reverse cycle air conditioner/heater.

Our club lacks younger members with the get up and go to chase sponsors and to assist around the club with lawn maintenance etc. It is left to the same 4-5 people and these are the mainstays at our Bunnings BBQs as well.

We now have 13 members with Working With Children Checks and we strictly enforce our Childsafe policy when student groups visit. The secondary school students enjoy their games but unfortunately none want to continue with the sport.

As you would be aware Sale has 7-8 members who regularly enter tournaments and I think all have had some success over the past year.

The club had soil testing carried out with the assistance of Croquet Victoria and also quote to improve one court which is heavily infested with kikuyu but the remedy of over \$20,000 which we cannot afford.

We have just bought a new ride-on mower for mowing the outsides of the courts. Our mower for the courts is still going well but our line marking machine is starting to show its age.

Warragul Croquet Club

Getting new members is proving challenging. For 6 Months (once a month), free entry to general public with OK Croquet with gold coin barbeque is proving popular but has resulted in no new members. Have recently gained an elderly couple from Probus and transfer from other clubs. Would like to see younger people joining so will persist with OK Croquet.

Running costs can also prove challenging. Water, energy, Greens upkeep is expensive. Means that fund raising is a constant. Rely on Green fees, Grants, Bunnings Sausage Sizzles, raffles and generosity of members. Members do all the maintenance required

however mowers and equipment need to be serviced etc, at cost. Recent break-ins and thefts and window breakages hasn't helped. We have had to install more surveillance cameras for security.

Court quality has its ups and downs and is constantly being monitored for pests eg. Needed rabbit proofing. Watering systems constantly monitored. Also lawn needs to be maintained with fungicides etc. We have a regular provider/expert (agronomist), for diagnosing court problem areas. We also purchase products from his company. Ie Living Turf.

Sponsorships is important to us for tournaments. Members at Warragul seem to prefer Pennant over attending Tournaments. WCC has a coach and a Referee.

Council assistance is limited to Rates. Has stepped up where liable eg. Spent \$100,000 on wall construction to prevent erosion. Generally, Club has maintained a good relationship with Council.

Other clubs in region are probably in a similar situation to Warragul. Members are very busy maintaining their own club.

VCA can help by promoting Croquet through a media campaign in Victoria, full on advertising with young people playing . As it is, we are preaching to the converted, ie. The elderly! VCA could help by promoting Croquet in the areas, eg.. TV advertising eg. Channel 9 in Gippsland.

Clubs need assistance maintaining the courts. It's a massive job for the few capable members and with limited finances. Perhaps there is Greens expertise and less expensive products that could be made available to Clubs such as ours, through the VCA?

Technology is also an area that Clubs struggle with given the ages of members. Warragul's average age is 76. VCA has shown a willingness to assist with Rev Sport and I thank VCA for the help provided.

Morwell Croquet Club:

We currently have 24 members, down on last year due to age/health related problems.

Our club now boasts one qualified referee.

The club's financial position is good and we work hard at keeping it so.

Our courts have benefitted from professional care and are looking very good at present.

We have managed to secure one more sponsor in the past year for a considerable annual remuneration.

We seek out grants available to us whenever possible.

Our relationship with the local council is excellent and they have been a great support to us during the number of break-ins we have had in the last 12 months.

Our club hosts two tournaments each year and they have been great successes.

Sadly, Pennant has not been played by our club for a few years now due to the lack of competitive members.

Although we only have three competitive members who venture out to tournaments success in their endeavours has been outstanding.

As with most clubs our biggest issue is finding new members, it is an ongoing battle but we soldier on.

Wonthaggi Croquet Club

The club has a membership of 34, including Associate and social members. There are around 16 to 20 players fronting up for social play three times a week, and an active cohort of members regularly competing in tournaments throughout Victoria and at Victor Harbour (South Australia), and Howlong and Deniliquin in NSW.

We host 2 external tournaments each year. These attract top-class competitors and is well sponsored.

The club's greens mower needs extensive repair; all three reels need replacing, plus servicing and repairs to the motor and hydraulics system. It is estimated to cost upwards of \$7,500. Our finances are sufficient to meet this cost, however, we are seeking a grant from the local council to assist meeting this expenditure. Bunnings BBQs have helped generate much needed finances, raising about \$3,500 in the last 12 months.

Similar to other clubs, membership has remained steady. As some leave, others join, however Seniors' Day promotions do not attract new members.

We rely on a small number of members to carry out working bees, and it is disappointing that no matter how we ask for assistance from others they do not come and support "the workers".

LAKES ENTRANCE CROQUET CLUB INC

We have 35 members playing golf croquet only

Ageing and infirmity is our main issue = loss/diminishing of quantity of players on play days. Core member David Barrett has sold up following the passing of his wife Marislyn, and is moving to Queensland by end April. He will be missed.

One new member ex Bowls club. We have found that golfers are a good source for membership- with one new member, and another prospective

Juniors' involvement: No success to date- tried local schools with very poor results- We have 2 referees- Rhonda Smith & John Mitchell

We have 2 coaches, though will be down to one with David leaving

- Financial position: Quite healthy

- Court quality: Excellent- we have carried out scarifying, had major servicing done to our mower, purchased a new easier to manage line marker, and just recently installed an inground watering system to replace our travelling irrigator. This means that watering our courts is simpler and far more efficient, especially less time that it now requires for a person to manage the process.

Word of mouth has still proven to be our most successful means of recruitment- it is, however, slow.

Through Gippsport, we applied and received \$1,000 grant and have purchased a slightly new style/ upgraded polo shirt for each member.

Our recent singles tournament received great response from local businesses via donations for our mega raffle – we also have 4 annual sponsors for Cubby signage.

Relationship with our local council is good- We lease our property from East Gippsland Shire Council- and have made significant improvements to the property.

Volunteer engagement: Our members are very supportive- and pitch in whenever needed- we have a core of members who maintain our grounds, and buildings- doing all tasks needed to keep our great club ticking over and successfully so.

It was members who reconfigured the machine shed to create an office space plus an additional toilet, and installed the inground irrigation system

NOTABLE SUCCESSES

Lakes One successfully challenged and won Gippsland Pennant 2026 – following upon our 2025 success and recently won the Jim Clements Memorial trophy held at Bairnsdale.

Member success

One of our inaugural members, May Beveridge turned 101 this March- earning her accolades and an interview with ABC Gippsland radio and WIN TV- May still plays 2-3 games twice a week, and very well- she is a force to be reckoned with on the court. May has been submitted to Guinness Book of Records for recognition- we await the outcome with bated breath- and are tempted to wrap her in cottonwool to keep her safe .

Lack of referees in our vicinity/ club is acknowledged, as is the wish for another coach or two.



SEMCA

SOUTH EAST METRO CROQUET ASSOCIATION

The SEMCA region covers clubs on the Mornington Peninsula. There are 5 clubs in total and include Mornington CC, Village Glen CC, West Rosebud Bowls CC, RNB CC and Sorrento CC. After many years of advocacy, a Mornington Council Meeting on the 5th November, 2025, a unanimous vote was passed on the last stage of the Council's Sports Capacity plan. It is with pleasure that I include a portion of this report at the end of this document. Thank you to Croquet Victoria, Croquet Australia, Joy Mitchell and Kew CC and Mandy Banks for your ongoing support. The Council's idea is to redevelop the sporting area at Trueman's Road Reserve, Tootgarook, to accommodate a large number of sporting clubs. We will be working to have the facility prioritised asap. However, the Council hopes to get works on the way within the next 4 years, finances allowing! We would like year 1!!!

MORNINGTON CROQUET CLUB – Cheryl Ciantar

MCC, located in the Civic Reserve on Dunns Road, have 3A courts. The courts are in excellent condition and maintained by a groundsman. Other clubs in the area also use our courts for competition. Our club house, leased from the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, is in urgent need of repair or replacement.

At the present time we have 55 members although aging and illness may mean there will be a few members not renewing this year.

We have several coaches who provide regular coaching sessions on various topics and one qualified referee. Member annual fees and regular fund raising (mainly Bunnings BBQ) enable the club to afford the groundsman with the surrounds maintained by members.

ROSEBUD WEST BOWLS & CROQUET CLUB – Julie Hevey

Overview - The Club has just over twenty members, nine of which are affiliated with SEMCA. Whilst the membership is small it is close-knit, working well together and actively participates in the social activities of the wider club.

Facilities – The Club has one A Court or two-three quarter Courts. As there is no Grounds Person the Croquet club members do all the maintenance that the Court requires. Unfortunately, the condition of the Court has deteriorated over the years. In addition, the species of grass makes it particularly difficult if there are dry conditions over the summer months.

Competition – Social games are played on a Tuesday and Wednesday while Golf Croquet and Aussie Croquet are played on a Friday. Participation in the SEMCA games is always eagerly anticipated. One of the local highlights of the year is the four game annual competition with Village Glen. We also enjoy an annual competition with the Ringwood Croquet Club.

VILLAGE GLEN CROQUET CLUB – Elaine Travis

The VGCC continues to be a vibrant, financial club within Village Glen Retirement Living. There are currently 77 full members, 11 of whom are Affiliated with ACA /CV. There are 15 social NON playing members. A core of 39 of our full members play in our club Competitions. Others prefer to play on a social basis only.

Despite only having one “A” court it is available to members six and a half days a week. 2 days a week are allocated to A court play while the remainder is played as two “B” courts which suits our aging population. The condition of our court is good with only minor deviations to keep us on our toes.

Our introduction to Golf Croquet course is now run informally with an experienced player as we have no registered Coach available. Players who wish to Affiliate are encouraged to do so and will be handicapped by Bill Manwaring (RNB) who has kindly agreed to help with this in order for it to be unbiased and accurate. We continue to attract new players from new residents and long-standing ones who can no longer play golf or Bowls. 10 have registered for lessons since December with 6 already integrated and playing regularly.

Concerns for the future focus on ability to attract members to take on the Committee Roles and the support of members and committee within the Club of players who wish to continue playing competitively outside of the Village environment.

On a positive note, our Constitution has been reviewed and approved hopefully making it easier for new Committee Members to understand the regulations of running our Club. A total of 6 Position guidelines have been accepted and numerous policies and guidelines developed to assist in this. We recognize we are somewhat unique and appreciate the assistance given by members of CV and particularly Terri Manwaring for her support.

RNB CROQUET CLUB – Bill Manwaring

Our membership has remained steady although quite often our player numbers are down due to ill health. We have registered our interest and are planning for October’s Senior’s Festival and are hoping to run an Alice in Wonderland themed Come & Try Session at our location, Trueman’s Road Reserve. Our Community sessions continue and we have 3 sessions booked so far for the remainder of the year with other enquiries pending.

Following discussions with the Mornington Council RNB is on the list for a Portable clubroom, however, the allocation depends on so many “if this happens” situations that we feel that the ‘believe it when we see it’ attitude has been adopted by all members

The following has been taken from the Mornington Peninsula Sports Capacity Plan

Croquet

- The Shire-wide participation rate for croquet (0.08%) is higher than the State participation rate (0.05%).
- There are indicators suggesting that the Mornington Peninsula Shire can continue to grow croquet participation from the small but stable current participation base. These include the prevailing older demographic profile of the Shire, the relatively strong

participation rate in the Shire, the trend of increasing participation in croquet throughout Victoria, and the ongoing promotion and activation of croquet throughout the Shire by the RNB Croquet Club. Croquet Victoria's Growing Croquet Facilities Infrastructure Strategic Plan (2020-2030) supports the strategic need for a District level croquet facility for the Shire that could also service the South East Metropolitan Melbourne Region.

9.3. Getting the Ball Rolling (what do we need)

Shire-Wide Direction

1. Plan for an additional 5 – 6 permanent croquet courts, due to 4 current courts being either not permanent or having restricted public access.
2. Investigate the need and benefit of developing a Regional level croquet facility.
3. No croquet courts be developed in the Western Port planning areas unless demand arises in future.

➤ Northern Peninsula Planning Area -Location Projects

4. Mornington Croquet Club

- Install floodlights to 1 – 2 courts.
- Upgrade and extend the existing clubroom (or replace it) to provide off-court facilities to reflect the needs of a District/ Township level croquet facility.

➤ Southern Peninsula Planning Area

5. West Rosebud Bowling & Croquet Club

- Assist the members of the West Rosebud Bowling & Croquet Club to determine the most effective usage of the available greens.

6. Parade Ground, Point Nepean National Park (Sorrento)

- No change. (*This area is covered by Parks Victoria*)

7. Truemans Road Reserve (Tootgarook)

- Incorporate RNB Croquet Club in the investigation of new facilities as part of a Southern Peninsula Regional level croquet facility.