



**Minutes of Croquet Victoria Council Meeting
held Monday 17 August 2026 via zoom**

1 Attendance

1.1 Present:

1.1.1 Directors:

Kate Patrick	(President)	Wayne Lewis	(Vice President)
Sarina Ceva-al-Hewitt	(Secretary/NEDCA)	Robin Russell	(Treasurer)
Pat Smith	(Member/Ballarat & District)	Alister McDougal	(Member)
Ian Potter	(Member/Murray Valley)	Rita Jenkins	(Member)
Treesh Reeve	(Bayside)	Wayne Worlidge	(EMCA)
Janelle Morris	(Geelong)	Judy Hodder	(Gippsland)
Heather Crawley	(Goldfields)	Trish Pedrotti	(Goulburn Valley)
Damien Hadfield	(NDCA)	Terri Manwaring	(SEMCA)
Apology	(SWCA)	Trevor Turner	(WMCMA)
			Wimmera)

1.1.2 Minute Secretary:

Minn Stewart (Elsternwick Croquet Club).

1.2 Apologies:

Trevor Turner (Brimbank Croquet Club), Bill Gardner (SWCA).

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.

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Council Meeting

<https://croquetvic.asn.au/minutes/20260720Council.pdf>

Resolved that the minutes of the Croquet Victoria Council Meeting held 20 July 2026 be adopted as a true and correct record.

Business Arising from Minutes of Previous Meetings:

3.1.1 Understairs Storage at Victorian Croquet Centre: update

Construction nearly complete, drawers completed, capacity to store long tables.

4 Adoption of Financial Report

Attached as Annex A

Resolved that the Financial Report be adopted.

4.1 Business Arising from Financial Report:

4.1.1 JB Were funds usage is to be discussed by the Finance Committee

4.1.2 P & L Report name may be changed within the Xero system to reflect Not for Profit status and the format of information simplified to identify previous and this month, current status in relation to the budget amount.

4.1.3 A request to the Sub-Committees to identify what expenditure items should be tracked will be made so that each Sub-Committee can identify expenditure versus budget. Such reporting can then be further refined for Council reports. **Action Secretary**

4.1.4 J B Were Monthly Report storage on the Director Portal yet to be determined.

4.1.5 Spending outside a budget item needs to be approved by Council

4.1.6 Suggested that individual budgets for tournaments are not necessary.

5 Consent Items

5.1 President's Report:

Attached as Annex B

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 5.2 Secretary's Report: including correspondence | Attached as Annex C |
| 5.3 Marketing & Publicity Sub-Committee Report: | Attached as Annex D |
| 5.4 Health & Safety Sub-Committee Report: | Attached as Annex E |
| 5.5 Strategic Plan Implementation Sub-Committee: | Attached as Annex F |
| 5.6 Sub-Committee Minutes Received and Distributed | |
| Marketing & Publicity Sub-Committee: 15 July 2026 | |
| Golf Croquet Selection Sub-Committee: 13 July 2026 | |
| VCC Sub-Committee: 16 July 2026 | |
| 5.7 Regional Reports: EMCA and Bayside | Attached as Annex G |
- Resolved that the Consent Items be accepted.

6 Business Arising from Consent Items

6.4 Health & Safety Sub-Committee Report:

The Sub-Committee canvassed clubs (and noted no incidents at the Victorian Croquet Centre that required a wheelchair) and determined that a wheelchair at Victorian Croquet Centre was not warranted.

6.5 Strategic Plan Implementation Sub-Committee Recommendations:

2027-2031 – As the Strategic Plan covers all areas of the Croquet Victoria more detail is required in the report. Future Roadshows will build on the data already obtained to further develop the plan.

Resolved that Sub-Committees and Appointed Officers be requested to review the draft document, that it be revised taking their comments into account and that it then be sent to all clubs for feedback.

Action Secretary

6.6 VCC Sub-Committee Minutes:

Stocktake of kitchen equipment has been undertaken in preparation for future catering arrangement; purchases have been made to ensure adequate crockery for imminent events. New croquet balls to be purchase, used sets may be offered for sale.

7 General Business

7.1 Matters for Decision:

7.1.1 VCC Sub-Committee Terms of Reference: Ongoing.

7.1.2 Business Risk Assessment: Status of review by the responsible areas. Meeting yet to occur.

7.1.3 SEMCA Proposal: Assistance in the setup of the proposed Casey club is occurring.

7.1.4 Appointed Officer Nominations:

The nomination of David Wren for the Assistant State Coordinator Refereeing - Association Croquet was endorsed

The nomination of Joy Mitchell for the Assistant State Coordinator Coaching was endorsed.

7.1.5 Sub-Committee Nomination:

The nomination of Deb Newbold for the Golf Croquet Selection Sub-Committee was endorsed.

The nomination of Peter Condliffe for the Tribunal Panel was endorsed.

A discussion concerning whether Tribunal Panel member names be displayed on the Sub-Committee page occurred. Advice concerning this will be requested from all current tribunal members.

Agreed that in the meantime that the information on tribunal members on the website be temporarily removed.

Action Secretary

7.1.6 Establishment of a Website Working Group and Website User Group:

Resolved that a website working group and a website user group be established.

A call for expressions of interest to this working group will be made. The actual number of the committee will be determined by the responses. Members of the committee will be

confirmed by September Council meeting. Funding is available for modification of the website, Noted that the website needs to take account of inclusion, diversity and equity issues etc.

Resolved Terms of Reference to be adopted and uploaded to website. **Action Secretary**
Livestream page update to be addressed **Action President/Secretary**

7.2 Matters for Discussion:

7.2.1 Club Survey Summary: Directors are asked to identify what questions should be included to identify issues. The report should be designed to enable comparison with numbers and % and enable comparison between years. Further planning is to be discussed.
Action Strategic Plan Implementation Sub-Committee

7.2.2 Secretaries Duties:

Problems currently related to website and revSport user access.
Resolved that Minn Stewart be recognised as Minute Secretary.

7.2.3 Reimbursement Kilometre Travel Rate Review:

Update from Finance Sub-Committee awaited

7.2.4 Bullying & Harassment Online Module: Need replacement module.

<https://www.playbytherules.net.au/elearning-scenarios/harassment-discrimination-course>
This module will be reviewed and evaluated by Wayne Lewis and Heather Crawley as a replacement course.

8 Other Business

8.1 Other Matters:

8.1.1 VCC Business Plan Working Group:

Catering trial to occur.

8.1.2 Webmaster's Backlog:

Identification of current outstanding issues to be created and discussed with the webmaster.
Action Secretary

8.1.3 Director Profile:

Directors are requested to update their contact details and submit changes to the Secretary.
Action Directors

8.2 Meeting Recap:

- Finance Report format changes resulting from migration to XERO
- Bullying & Harassment Online Training Module to be reviewed
- Health and Safety recommendation
- Nominations endorsed
- Draft Strategic Plan – distribution to Sub-Committees/Appointed Officers
- Webmaster concerns to be followed up
- Formation of Web
- Future Annual Club Survey questions discussed
- VCC Business Plan Working Group update

9 Close Meeting 8.45 pm

10 Next Meetings 2026/2027

September	Monday	21	Council	Zoom
October	Monday	19	Council	Zoom
November	Monday	16	Council	Zoom
December	Monday	14	Council 10.30 am	Face to Face at Cairnlea
February	Monday	15	Council	Zoom
March	Monday	15	Council	Zoom
April	Monday	19	Council	Zoom
May	Monday	17	Council	Zoom
June	Monday	21	Council 10.30 am	Face to Face at Cairnlea

Annex B	President's Report
Annex C	Secretary's Report
Annex D	Marketing & Publicity Sub-Committee Report
Annex E	Health & Safety Sub-Committee Report
Annex F	Strategic Plan Implementation Sub-Committee
Annex G	Regional Reports

Treasurer Report July 2026

We are currently in mid-stream of the migration from MYOB to Xero, so accurate reporting in the traditional P&L and Balance Sheet formats is not available. We are hoping to make substantial progress this weekend (8 / 9 August), and it may be possible to distribute reports before Council.

Invoices for CV and CA affiliation fees have been sent to clubs. Unfortunately, I had problems with the template and the invoices did not have a CV logo, or even the bsb and account number for payment. Nonetheless, to 31 July 2026, 61 clubs had paid \$156,000, with another 10 clubs for a total of \$28,000 up to Thursday 6th August. My thanks to all clubs for their prompt payments and forbearance on the poor-quality invoicing.

Bank balance in the operating account at 31st July was \$112,161.97, with \$68,800.00 for the new mower the main outgoing expenditure for the month.

At 11th July (the latest statement) the grants account balance was \$23,332.76.

At 7 August 2026, the net market value of our investments was \$6,586,117.18, yielding an estimated \$255K in annual income. Our JB Were cash balance was \$254,985.60 at that date.

It was not necessary to draw down the cash authorised at the last Council meeting for the new mower, as affiliation fees had started to flow before the invoice was paid.

Profit and Loss

Victorian Croquet Association Inc. For the month ended 31 July 2026

	JULY 2026	YEAR TO DATE	FULL BUDGET
Income			
Trading Income			
Bar Sales & Catering	2,097.71	4,299.17	4,000.00
Merchandise & Equipment	-	275.77	2,450.00
Premises & Courts	-	14,861.51	28,200.00
Tournament Income	1,551.28	3,815.47	13,850.00
Tournament Reimbursements	-	1,809.62	-
Total Trading Income	3,648.99	25,061.54	48,500.00
Affiliation			
Brimbank Contribution Fee	-	-	4,800.00
CA Affiliation	110,461.67	110,570.76	109,091.00
CA Player Insurance	-	117.45	12,000.00
VCA Affiliation	96,724.59	97,223.06	95,454.00
Total Affiliation	207,186.26	207,911.27	221,345.00
Grants			
Grants & Sponsorships	454.55	763.64	20,600.00
Total Grants	454.55	763.64	20,600.00
Investment Income			
JB Were Dividends	5,742.14	13,739.49	-
JB Were Interest	5,471.47	15,622.63	-
JB Were Trust Income	1,492.94	16,293.67	224,000.00
Foreign Income	-	983.76	-
Realised Fair Value gains/losses	-	(16,007.69)	-
Unrealised Fair Value gains/losses	44,945.31	409,249.47	120,000.00
Total Investment Income	57,651.86	439,881.33	344,000.00
Other			
Donations	250.00	2,400.00	-
Total Other	250.00	2,400.00	-
Total Income	269,191.66	676,017.78	634,445.00
Gross Profit	269,191.66	676,017.78	634,445.00
Operating Expenses			
Administration			
Accounting & Bookkeeping	385.00	945.00	38,000.00
Advertising & Marketing	-	-	800.00
Audit	-	3,300.00	3,400.00
Honoraria	-	-	3,000.00
Bank and Merchant Fees	3.15	13.65	45.00
Insurance	-	14,691.36	17,500.00

	JULY 2026	YEAR TO DATE	FULL BUDGET
Depreciation	6,971.00	27,884.00	97,652.00
Legal expenses	-	-	5,000.00
Printing Postage & Stationery	60.25	236.79	2,000.00
General & Sundry	-	23.64	400.00
Memberships & Subscriptions	150.25	341.55	4,000.00
Telephone & Internet	113.78	354.69	1,668.00
Grant & Scholarships	576.82	4,778.02	26,000.00
JB Were Management Fees	-	-	39,000.00
Training & Professional Development	1,592.06	2,540.24	1,915.00
Travel & Executive Expenses	151.80	646.68	5,000.00
Webmaster/Website	600.00	1,800.00	19,800.00
Total Administration	10,604.11	57,555.62	265,180.00
Tournaments and Affiliation			
Tournament Expenses	370.00	7,220.35	16,670.00
Croquet Coordination	854.60	854.60	109,778.00
Playing Equipment	-	-	1,000.00
Merchandise Pennant	1,095.53	1,573.26	3,000.00
State Team Entry Fees payments	-	-	12,363.00
Awards & Presentations	229.09	353.17	600.00
CA Affiliation Expenses	-	-	109,091.00
CA Insurance	-	-	12,000.00
Total Tournaments and Affiliation	2,549.22	10,001.38	264,502.00
Premises			
Bar Expenses	-	230.83	2,000.00
Catering & Dinner Expenses	1,417.45	1,695.23	5,000.00
Cairnlea Amenities	-	324.79	1,000.00
Repairs and Maintenance Building	6,791.70	11,134.33	59,660.00
Utilities Outgoings	684.26	5,285.25	19,600.00
VCC Court & Garden maintenance	2,170.92	(96.34)	102,800.00
Total Premises	11,064.33	18,574.09	190,060.00
Total Operating Expenses	24,217.66	86,131.09	719,742.00
Net Profit	244,974.00	589,886.69	(85,297.00)

Balance Sheet

Victorian Croquet Association Inc. As at 31 July 2026

31 JULY 2026

Assets

Bank

JB Were Investment AC	6,503,116.04
Victorian Croquet Assoc Grant Account	23,332.76
Victorian Croquet Association	109,862.97
Total Bank	6,636,311.77

Current Assets

Accounts Receivable	75,894.87
Total Current Assets	75,894.87

Fixed Assets

Accum Depreciation for land and building	(1,669,867.00)
Building at Cost	3,331,836.00
Cairnlea Land and Site Works at Cost	1,980,368.00
Less Accumulated Depreciation Plant & Equipment	(183,320.98)
Plant & Equipment	312,574.17
Total Fixed Assets	3,771,590.19

Total Assets	10,483,796.83
---------------------	----------------------

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	5,571.89
Grant In Advance	22,532.76
GST	11,966.62
Rounding	(1.31)
Total Current Liabilities	40,069.96

Total Liabilities	40,069.96
--------------------------	------------------

Net Assets	10,443,726.87
-------------------	----------------------

Equity

Asset Revaluation Reserve	963,595.06
Current Year Earnings	589,886.69
General Reserve	7,703,572.44
Retained Earnings	1,136,059.08
Special Funds	50,613.60
Total Equity	10,443,726.87

President's report

BACKGROUND

Under the by-laws, the president is required to represent and promote mallet sports in all its forms throughout Victoria, to chair meetings of Council and CoM, and to attend meetings of sub-committees and working groups *ex officio*. Under the Constitution, the Committee of Management reports to Council via the President, but at present the Committee of Management is not meeting.

I think my last formal report was in February, so this report covers almost six months.

UPDATE

1. Promoting and representing mallet sports

Since my last formal report in December, I have

- attended the AC Regionals dinner in Ballarat
- attended Season Openings at VCC and Brighton
- attended two re-vamped Vicsport briefing sessions
- participated in two briefing sessions on planning for diversity, equity and inclusion. We are required to have plans in these areas by February 2027 if we are to be eligible for government funding.
- provided a letter of support for the members in the City of Casey who are advocating for a new club there. This is in line with Croquet Victoria's ten year infrastructure plan.
- participated in four consultative roadshows, in Rosebud, Shepparton, Ballarat and Queenscliff, gathering suggestions for the next iteration of our Strategic Plan

2. Governance

I contributed to the work of the Nominations Committee in seeking successors to various elected and appointed positions. We are still looking for an editor to revive our magazine *Mallet News*, and there are other positions have not been filled for some time, but it has been very encouraging to see a number of members coming forward to assist in running the business of Croquet Victoria.

With other members of the ad hoc GamePlan group, I contributed to a self-assessment of our governance arrangements as required by the State Government, and shared issues raised in the self-assessment with the Constitution Working Group. This working group has had ten meetings over the past six months and is presenting an initial discussion paper to Council at this meeting.

I continue to forward the Croquet Victoria mobile phone as agreed by Council in November.

3. Liaising with Croquet Australia and other states

I have continued to attend independent meetings of Presidents, alternating with meetings convened by the Croquet Australia Managing Director (now Damon Selwyn, replacing Chris Bannister). So far this year six meetings have taken place. Topics discussed include

- Staffing plans at Croquet Australia
- Croquet Australia work on the Croquet Academy web resources and pathways
- Consultation with states on Croquet Australia policies. The CA Board recently approved three updated policy documents without prior consultation. The Presidents have discussed these documents and will be putting some questions to the General Manager.
- Publicity and marketing initiatives in Western Australia. They will be sharing their resources with the other states.
- Governance arrangements in the different states

Damon is attending several days of the GC carnival of events in September, and is seeking to arrange a face to face meeting with Presidents while he is at VCC.

4. Attendance at meetings

Over the past six months I have attended the following meetings *ex officio*: VCC subcommittee (5), Marketing and Publicity (3), Tournaments and Fixtures (5), the Strategic Plan Implementation Sub-

Committee (8), Finance (1), Risk and Compliance (1), Health and Safety (4), GC Selectors (3), AC Selectors (2), and the Nominations Sub-Committee (5).

Matters discussed at these meetings include:

Development of new initiatives

- Commentator training to support live streaming
- Regional roadshows in 2026
- Next steps in developing Croquet Victoria's next Strategic Plan
- Framework for Croquet Victoria's Strategic Initiative Development grants
- Supporting clubs in identifying and tackling safety requirements
- Strategies for encouraging novice Association Croquet players
- Arranging and documenting training for First Aiders
- Preparing for the Interstate Shield to be held in Melbourne in 2026

Business as usual

- Maintenance and safety requirements at the Victorian Croquet Centre
- Checking risk statements and supporting risk mitigation strategies
- Challenges in working to the Government Child Safe Standards
- Strategies for developing junior croquet

Over the next few months, I would like to delegate the responsibility of attending some of these meetings to other members of Council.

Kate Patrick
10 August 2026

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Croquet Victoria Membership 3091 (5 August 2026)

Draft Agenda and Draft Council Minutes

Now will be located in the Director's Portal once finalised.

Secretary's Tasks

- Sharing of tasks is continuing.
- Amended Selection Policy uploaded to website.
<https://croquetvic.asn.au/documents/Selection%20Policy.pdf>
- Golf Croquet Regional Guidelines uploaded to website.
<https://croquetvic.asn.au/documents/Croquet%20Victoria%20Golf%20Croquet%20Regional%20Championships.pdf>

Council Manual

Distributed to all Directors. Additional documentation distributed to newly appointed Directors.

Annual Club Survey

With the disaffiliation of Walla Walla Croquet Club, we now have 85 clubs across 14 regions. Three clubs yet to complete the survey.

Regional Reports to Council 2026 -

19 October 2026	Ballarat, Geelong, Goldfields, Wimmera
14 December 2026	GVCA, NDCA, Murray Valley



Secretary

Correspondence August Council Meeting	
In - Email	
8 July 2026	Croquet Australia - seeking feedback for Advantage Target Scores proposal
14 July 2026	Croquet Australia - Calendar of Events
16 July 2026	Croquet Australia - confirming State President's Meeting
20 July 2026	DJSIR - approval of acknowledgement of Victorian Government as grant provider for Significant Events
27 July 2026	DJSIR - facility tour by James Lake
	Sec Cc'd - Minister Dimopoulos -inability to attend 13 September 2026 presentation
28 July 2026	Sec Cc'd - Croquet Australia - Pathways Survey results
29 July 2026	DJSIR - acknowledgment of receiving SSEP Pre Event Report
	Sec Cc'd - Office of the Governor - Governor unable to attend 8 September 2026
30 July 2026	Croquet Australia - announcement of appointment of Damon Selwyn as Croquet Australia General Manager
Various	Vicsport eBulletins, SRV Grant opportunities, Gateball emails, club's issues with revSport, Association Croquet State Team Squad acceptances, Secretaries Meeting attendance notifications.
Out Email	
22 July 2026	DJSIR - SSEP Pre Event report
Various	distribution of eBulletins, distribution of Croquet Australia information, answering requests for information from regions and clubs to migrate to revSport.



**Annex D to
Croquet Victoria Council Meeting Minutes
17 August 2026**

**M and P Sub-Committee Quarterly Report for the
Croquet Victoria Council Meeting August 2026**

Background

The sub-committee meets monthly and is tasked with promoting the sport across Victoria and Southern NSW. Our efforts are focused on enhancing the visibility of and engagement with mallet sports

Activities over the last quarter

The following is a summary of key activities taken by the sub-committee during the quarter

- Meetings each month by zoom.
- The annual report for Marketing and Publicity was compiled
- Monthly newsletters highlighting club and player achievements have been sent to club secretaries each month. The newsletters have included news of upcoming events such as the livestreaming initiative. Club Profiles of Sandringham and Portland have been included based on their membership successes.
- Initiating the livestreaming activity has been the major undertaking this year including negotiating costs, logistics and funding from Croquet Victoria in partnership with Tournaments and Fixtures. T and F is focused on event logistics and Kate Patrick is managing the commentary process.
- M and P have proactively sought partnerships to cover costs of livestreaming activities but with limited success. Data from this year's livestreaming may provide a stronger case for partners in future years.
- Marketing the 2026 livestreaming is currently limited to websites, social media and the M&P newsletter. The difficulty of communicating directly with members has been highlighted to Croquet Victoria with a request for action to ensure more streamlined communication.
- Club secretaries continue to be asked to share the M&P newsletter with members but informal feedback indicates sharing of newsletter content is not widespread.
- In this context, M&P is considering the logistics of reinstating a more general newsletter similar to that offered in other states e.g. <https://www.croquetnsw.org.au/cnsw-news/cnsw-newsletters>
- The trifold brochure (based on a Croquet England format) was distributed to Clubs for testing and feedback. Based on feedback, an amended format for Golf Croquet has been designed and printed in pocket form. A similar Association Croquet pocket guide for new players will be developed.
- Demand from Clubs for bookmarks and brochures continues.
- The 26/27 budget was approved.

Future focus

- Reviewing and updating the marketing plan.
- Encouraging a clear message on the value and benefits of croquet which is shared across all levels of Australia's croquet community.
- Considering the logistics of a regular broader newsletter including news from Croq Vic Council and tournaments and encouraging the promotion of mallet sports at a Club level.
- Supporting a user group to suggest improvements to the Croquet Victoria website to ensure it is outward facing for the public as well as informative for members.
- Encouraging the use of livestreaming videos for coaching and marketing.

Croquet Victoria Health and Safety Subcommittee Wheelchairs at Cairnlea

1. Background

South East Metro Region has raised the question of providing a wheelchair at VCC to support the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all participants.

The March CV Council agreed that H&S Subcommittee should review the suggestion and report back to Council with recommendations.

2. Rationale for providing a wheelchair

With an ageing demographic, there is risk that players, referees, spectators or other participants at VCC may be unable to move independently due to fatigue, dizziness, heat stress or aggravation of an existing condition. If there is not a life-threatening situation, ambulance response times can be lengthy. Where it could be considered a welfare issue, rather than medical emergency, a wheelchair would allow the participant to be moved to the clubhouse with minimal fuss.

3. Issues with providing a wheelchair

One size does not fit all. Wheelchairs are designed for certain weight ranges. Also, some participants are bariatric, which requires specifically designed wheelchairs.

Maintenance. Wheelchairs require constant maintenance for tyres, brakes, wheels, footrests and also longer-term maintenance of seating and other parts.

Operators. Wheelchair operation can pose risks to operators eg helping participant into wheelchair, pushing on grass or up ramps, folding or unfolding chairs.

Participants. Risk of further injury if moved improperly.

Medical. Any fall needs to be carefully assessed as it could be from a variety of causes, some very serious.

4. Data

In the last four years there have been no incidents at VCC requiring ambulance callout, and none where a wheelchair would have been helpful. There have been two medical time outs and one withdrawal from play.

There were approximately 3,000 player-days at VCC in 2025, so over four years the total is estimated at 10,000 plus.

The wheelchair at Horsham Croquet Club has never been used.

Clubs and regions were canvassed by the Subcommittee. Most input emphasised the risks to participants and operators

5. Recommendation

On balance the Subcommittee recommends that a wheelchair should not be provided.

**CROQUET VICTORIA
STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2031
Consultation draft
COVER SHEET**

BACKGROUND

1. Draft Strategic Plan 2026-2031 has been prepared by the Strategic Plan Implementation Subcommittee in keeping with the process previously approved by Council.
2. Inputs to the draft included
 - responses to reports on Outcomes of the 2022-20026 Plan invited from Council and CV Officials
 - material developed with club members at four Roadshows hosted by regional Croquet Associations in Rosebud, Ballarat, Shepparton & Queenscliff.
 - activities included in TMA grant conditions.
3. SPISC regard this as a very preliminary draft requiring further development as proposed in the Recommendations below.

ACTION

SPISC is seeking Council's approval for the commencement of consultation on the attached initial draft Strategic Plan 2026-2031.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SPISC recommends that:

1. That responses to this draft be sought from participants at the EMCA Roadshow (at MCC on 27 August) and from CV Officials, State Selectors & State Squad members and the following Subcommittees with specific reference to items relevant to their areas of responsibility: Finance, Marketing, Risk, Occupational Health & Safety.
2. That a revised Draft be published for comment from all Clubs and Associations

FOR CONSIDERATION

**Treesh Reeve
Convenor
Strategic Plan Implementation Sub Committee
8 August 2026**

Draft Strategic Plan August Council

Part of Vision. Maintain focus on values/culture (Active, Accessible, Exciting, Friendship, Inclusive, Sustainable)	Ongoing	Members identify values/culture as intrinsic to well being of croquet & its participants
---	---------	--

PRIORITY 1. CAPABILITY/SPORT DEVELOPMENT

GOALS	ACTIONS (Responsibilities)	WHEN	OUTCOMES 2031 (How will we know?)
Support the growth of all forms of mallet sports	Whole of organisation has a focus on promoting the public profile of croquet and growth in participation in all codes	Ongoing	More people competing in each code – at least 10% increase from 2026 - 2031
	Review & where necessary refresh coaching & refereeing pathways (in each code) to encourage more players to qualify as coaches & referees	2027-28	Participant satisfaction. Increased numbers of accredited & active officials
	Encourage clubs to nominate a club handicapper for each code played at the club	2027-2028	Each club has nominated a club handicapper in the codes played at the club
	Encourage Coordinators of Association Croquet, Golf Croquet and Ricochet Croquet Coaching, Refereeing and Handicapping to develop practices share resources between officials	Ongoing	Active networks of coaches, referees and tournament managers across Croquet Victoria
	Prepare a Draft Club Development Plan	2028	Clubs confidently & effectively managing competitive and recreational croquet
Grow croquet as a sport as well as a recreational activity	Increased opportunities for competition in each code particularly for higher handicap players		Increased participation in tournaments

PRIORITY 2. LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

GOALS	ACTIONS (Responsibilities)	WHEN	OUTCOMES (How will we know?)
Develop and support leadership and inclusive governance	Specific initiatives to develop and exercise effective leadership strategies to promote diversity and inclusion across the organisation developed & implemented	2027-31	Adopted and monitored
	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy adopted, monitoring processes implemented.	2027	
	Effective processes for succession planning and mix of skills on Council. Gaps in skills or knowledge identified and tackled.	Ongoing	<i>Council membership effective & sustainable.</i>
Maintain commitment to good governance	Active Council self-assessment process in place; improvements identified, targets set and pursued. (Game Plan)	Ongoing	
	Members of Council contribute effectively to decisions.	Ongoing	Each Director is a member of at least one Sub-Committee
	Constitution Review completed and implemented	2027	Adoption of amended Croquet Victoria Constitution and By-Laws

PRIORITY 3 MEMBERSHIP/RECRUITMENT

GOALS	ACTIONS (Responsibilities)	WHEN	OUTCOMES (How will we know?)
Build membership & participation	Follow-up all promotional activities at state, regional & local level to convert public interest to participation	Ongoing	Increased membership & participation
	Inclusion Plan developed and implemented	2027	
	Partnerships with First Nations, Ethnic Community Organisations and Sports Assemblies enhance recruitment and participation	Established 2028	

	Enhanced data collection & analyses to enable monitoring of progress and support grant applications	Ongoing	<i>Data collection & analyses support evaluation of all goals.</i>
Extend the demographics of participants in croquet	Strategies to address increasing participation by specific underrepresented groups developed & implemented	Ongoing	
	First Nations, Multicultural & Gender identity Action Plans adopted	2027	
	Increased age diversity.	Ongoing	More young players including an active Under 21 state squad,. More working age members.

PRIORITY 4. FINANCE

GOALS	ACTIONS (Responsibilities)	WHEN	OUTCOMES (How will we know?)
Sound, sustainable financial resources underpin all aspects of the Strategic Plan	Financial resources used wisely, diligently and sustainably in pursuit of goals.	Ongoing	Monthly & Annual accounts monitored & <i>published</i>
	Council regularly monitors financial accounts & advice from the Finance Committee		
	5-year Plan for Victorian Croquet Centre adopted and implemented		
	Affiliation fee is applied exclusively to services to members.		
	Lower affiliation fees		
Grants Program providing support to Clubs/Regions for development initiatives aligned with CV Strategic plan	Processes in place for allocating and evaluating investment in clubs	Ongoing	<i>Club use of & satisfaction with the program.</i> <i>Programs contribute to specific activities of the Strategic Plan</i>

PRIORITY 5. IMAGE

GOALS	ACTIONS (Responsibilities)	WHEN	OUTCOMES (How will we know?)
Croquet to be recognised as a sport by the wider community	Continue to enhance the image and build the profile of croquet in Victoria	2027	Overall plan developed
	In consultation with clubs website and social media refreshed to provide a welcoming, culturally safe and inclusive environment	2027	Member and public feedback on site
	Regular livestreaming of events		Demonstrated audience numbers
	Publicity Officers, with defined roles active at State, Regional & Club levels		More reports in local media including social media. Synchronised media strategies around specific events
	Research project on strategies for strengthening communication between Croquet Victoria and the membership.	2027	Improved membership satisfaction.

EASTERN METRO REGION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2026

- EMCA clubs continue to prosper, and numbers generally are on the rise, with some exceptions. Given our demographic, membership retention and attraction is a continuing challenge. Total membership at the end of July was 373.
- EMCA has a strong representation on sub-committees at Croquet Victoria, and it was pleasing to see Wayne Lewis (MCC) elected to the vacant Vice-President role.
- It is pleasing to see Ivanhoe Park anticipating an upgrade to facilities and we do hope Lilydale can be in the same boat soon.
- Thank you to the EMCA Representatives for their assistance during the year, especially Di Evans who took the dual role of Secretary and President.

Wayne Worlidge
EMCA Director

IVANHOE PARK CROQUET CLUB

- Membership numbers are steady around 80. Recruitment is continuing through regular U3A classes and Come and Try days. The website is also proving a useful tool to attract members.
- Competition: IPCC continues to field 2 teams in the northern metropolitan handicap competition, and had teams competing in level play competition during the year.
- Social: The monthly newsletter continues to be a great means of communication with members. There have been a number of successful social events through the year including a novelty games day, Birthday event for all the members turning 90, Christmas in July and end of year Christmas party. A winter competition using portable lights and headlamps has continued and proved very successful. During summer a weekly Friday evening session with a barbeque meal has also been a highlight.
- Upgrade of clubrooms: A lot of effort has gone into plans for the upgrade of the clubrooms with the preliminary drawings approved by the club and by Banyule council. The architect has completed detailed drawings in preparation for quotes from builders. Banyule Council has indicated that construction should commence in early 2027.
- Installation of court lighting: The installation of lights by Banyule Council is now contingent on a satisfactory report on the electricity network; hopefully this will be complete shortly and installation can proceed.

Ross Midgley

KEW CROQUET CLUB

- Kew is pleased with its new Greens Keeper, Aussie Turf Services.
- The sound management of the club has been recognized with the receipt of Gold accreditation from the City of Boroondara.
- Two members qualified as GC referees this year.
- Kew's membership has fallen to 69. We have introduced dozens of people to croquet through come-and-try days and various functions held at the club, but despite people having a great time, they have not joined up.
- Nevertheless, our courts are well used, with 4 different codes played across the week (AC, GC, Gateball and Kew Croquet (a little like Ricochet; played on half courts).
- Our Club hosted Divisions 2 and 3 of the Regional Qualifiers in March.

David Pryor

LILYDALE CROQUET CLUB

- Lilydale Croquet Club (LCC) continues as an active and strong community facility, despite its one undersized court often affected by the vicissitudes of nature (bird damage, ingress of tree roots etc) and long drawn-out discussions with Yarra Ranges Council on necessary enhance-ments to the existing facilities.
- LCC membership is small at a steady 38 members, but is active in terms of participation across all the South Eastern Metropolitan Regional autumn and spring competitions, while social play numbers regularly fill to capacity the LCC's one court most days of the week.
- Despite initially promising progress up to the feasibility and design stage of the Melba Park Community Development project, which includes a new clubhouse called the Melba Park Community Pavilion together with a major upgrade of the croquet playing facilities, we appear once again to be at a standstill. Since the Yarra Ranges Council advised LCC in January this year that it had appointed a quantity surveyor to estimate costings, we have had radio silence on the issue – with budget/finance assumed to be the blocking point.
- Even if the project is approved for funding and funding is actually allocated, we could realistically have to wait at least four years before any such project is finished. Concerned at this prospect, LCC formally approached the Council with a request that the inadequate toilet facilities be upgraded at least temporarily to provide separate male and female and possibly disabled facilities.
- Our constant lobbying efforts include representations to state and federal politicians one of whom has followed up the matter directly with Council.
- Unfortunately, LCC was unable to participate in the 2025 Spring SE Metro regional competition because our single court was undergoing repairs, but LCC fielded teams in the Autumn competitions.
- Interest in croquet, in and around Lilydale remains healthy. The local free community newspaper "The Star Mail" regularly gives us full page coverage inclusive of colour photographs and reports of competitions.
- The Clubhouse is quite often hired by local community groups for croquet-focussed parties. Coaching sessions are held for prospective new members, and we regularly have local community people expressing interest, which if we succeed in achieving the "promised" upgraded facilities can be exploited more fully.

Murray McLean, Craig McCracken

MCC CROQUET CLUB

- Membership hovers around the low 80's.
- As a result of a successful letterbox-drop and subsequent Come N Try Day, we have had up to 30 people in the first half participate in coaching. However, we will probably end up with only about 10 members out of this group - a disappointing conversion rate. We are discussing improved coaching methodology.
- Lachlan Berryman has been selected in the Australian Team for the MacRobertson Shield, as has Associate Member Greg Hill. We wish them both well.
- MCC had two teams in both Div 3 and 4 of AC Autumn Pennant and we won Div 3.
- Our Annual AC Tournament is scheduled for August. Prizes are up to \$250 for winners and \$100 for runners up.

- Our Court upgrade is nearly completed, with some work to do on shelters. A few damp spots need attention.
- We were pleased to host players from Monash for GC on Wednesday evenings while their courts were under maintenance.
- Our Annual Presentation Dinner was held in the Committee Room at the MCG. As we have come to expect, it was a great evening.
- Gavan Woinarski is writing a club history and it is near completion.

Paul Coughlin

MONASH CROQUET CLUB

- Our Club has 54 members, including 3 Life, and 3 Associate members. This is a slight increase since the start of 2026.
- We have held our usual 'in house' tournaments, have teams in SE Challenge Level and Advantage play. Members have also played in Metro and Regional Tournaments throughout the year, with a few winners from our Club.
- We ran and won the Bear Cup, an EMCA fun day. On World Croquet Day we hosted family and friends. We ran a U3A course over 4 weeks, gaining one new member from each.
- We have good numbers on our Social play days, especially Tuesday and Saturday mornings sessions. Just over 50% of our members play each week.
- Our replacement turf is coming along nicely. Monash Council has nearly completed installation of a new irrigation system for both courts, including our two half courts which will make summer watering much easier for members as we had to hand water over half of our turf in the past. A leak in an old line has been bypassed so we hope this will continue to improve the playing surface.
- We held a most enjoyable Christmas dinner and Presentation evening in December. We continue to hold well attended social activities every month, as well as a monthly soup lunch in winter, and fundraising activities.
- Monash is an inclusive welcoming Croquet Club to members and visitors alike, all enjoying the game of croquet and fellowship.

Kaye Wood, Gail Carruthers

RINGWOOD CROQUET CLUB

- Full Membership: 50 + 2 Social members.
- Golf Croquet: Teams were entered in both the Spring and Autumn SE Metro Challenge competition. Members also participated in the Spring and Autumn Advanced Handicap Challenge, combining with -Monash Croquet Club.
- Association Croquet: a team was entered in both the Level 4 Spring and Autumn Pennant.
- Ringwood and Kew CC combined to run an AC Tournament.
- There has been good support for competitions within the club in GC, but there are dwindling numbers of players to compete in the AC competitions.
- Social play on Tuesdays and Saturdays has been very well attended, as has Twilight play on Thursday during daylight saving. Social play has mainly been Golf Croquet, although some AC is played, and Ricochet has been introduced to some players.

- Ringwood has again hosted groups from two of the local secondary colleges for a series of lessons and has also hosted groups from Maroondah City Council and Melbourne Dining.
- Come and Try days have resulted in a number of new members, with publicity through U3A, Radio FM98.3 and flyers.
- We have continued with our monthly in-house lunches and Christmas lunch, popular social events, and a lunch in July at a local venue. In October to December, we collected food items for the Hope City Mission.

Julie Sloan, Kay Spiers

BAYSIDE REGION ANNUAL REPORT TO CROQUET VICTORIA

MEMBERS

Membership of Bayside Croquet Association (BCA) includes 5 clubs with 280 individual members. The BCA constitution provides for every member of an affiliated club to be an individual voting member of BCA. All clubs are in a stable financial position and have lawns in good condition.

Club	Numbers	Codes Played	Referees	Coaches
Brighton	61 + 1 Assoc	AC GC	5 AC umpires	3 AC
Elsternwick	17 + 3 Assoc	GC AC		
Elwood	64 + 1 Assoc	RC AC GC		
Frankston	31 + 1 Assoc	GC AC		
Sandringham	107 + 2 Assoc	GC	6 GC	1 GC

CURRENT ACHIEVEMENTS/CONCERNS/CHALLENGES

Building a sense of identity and belonging amongst clubs who do not share a common code remains a challenge.

The poor state rate of successfully converting people interested in becoming officials to them achieving qualified status is of serious concern

Strategic Focus for 2026 / 27

BCA Region will focus on:

- development especially supporting coaching and refereeing / umpiring and on
- Interdisciplinary exchange at social events.

CLUB CURRENT ACHIEVEMENTS/CONCERNS/CHALLENGES

BRIGHTON CROQUET CLUB

Members

The Club continues to actively pursue new members but is mindful of the limits on capacity when ECC relocates later in the year.

Municipal Council

The Club continues to build its relationship with the Bayside Council, recently participating in an Expo hosted by Council targeting activities for Seniors.

Bayside Deputy Mayor, our Local Councilor and a senior manager attended BCC Open Day

Facilities

Completion the concrete path and constructed a shed (for the use of ECC). The majority of these works were funded by Melbourne Water as part of the contractual arrangement with ECC.

Referees, Handicappers, Coaches

Recently, 5 BCC members qualified as AC Umpires. While this is progress it does not address the critical shortage of referees, which are required to adjudicate at AC tournaments.

Two BCC members recently qualified as 'handicappers' for all forms of the game which brings the total qualified handicappers to four. Two members also recently qualified AC coaches.

Competitions

BCC participated in the Division 4 AC final, autumn at Cairnlea, but went down to the Elwood Croquet Club on the day.

Regular internal tournaments are held. Most recently the AC (handicapped) championship (the Cavalier Challenge) across all 4 Divisions

ELSTERNWICK CROQUET CLUB (ECC)

Club house remedial works

Remedial works to the club house have now been finalised to the satisfaction of Glen Eira Council and with a grant from Croquet Victoria. Consequently, the Council has undertaken to renew the lease to the ECC for 5 years plus an additional extra 4 years at the end of the 5 years. The Council has also programmed new drains and related levelling of the rear footpath behind the building at their expense in the coming FY.

Relationships with Municipal Council are now good.

Strategic Plan highlights

A membership drive aimed to raise the number of members from the low 20's to 30 (or more) this year. We would also like to broaden the age spectrum of players.

Clubhouse renovation including sprucing up the internal features of the club house, involving painting, new floor coverings and a kitchen revamp.

Grants & Fund Raising

Our local MP has undertaken to guide us with financial support from the Bendigo Bank where he sits as a member of two on their grants committee. So, our political contact is evolving.

More fund-raising activities through Bunnings (sausage sizzles), a plant sale and social activities run by the club (starting with a pilot lunch on Sunday 19 July).

ELWOOD CROQUET CLUB

Temporary Relocation due to Elwood Main Drain construction

After over two years of negotiation of compensation, finding a temporary location and organising our move we have now received a Notice to Vacate the property by 15 September. A shed to house our playing equipment has been erected at Brighton whilst other furnishings and equipment will go into storage.

We look forward to working with our gracious hosts Brighton Croquet Club for up to three years until the drainage work, and construction of a new club are complete.

Regional event

Elwood hosted the BCA Short Croquet AC event Seven BCC members attended for Singles (AC handicapped players) and Doubles (Novice) Competition

Competitive Events

Our Annual Theo Tijs Ricochet Tournament (handicap play). This internal event attracted 8 Singles and 16 Doubles Entries.

Metro AC Division 4 Pennant

An increasing number of players travelling around the state to enter AC and Ricochet Events.

Social Events

Round Robin Ricochet and Snake in the Grass held monthly.

Public Holidays. Bring food to share at lunch between morning and afternoon playing sessions. More First Saturday of each month barbecue lunch – Always well attended.

Mahjong is played - two Sunday afternoons and two Tuesday evenings per month.

Priorities for 2026

Maintenance of the Elwood identity as we operate from Brighton and possibly two days per week from Elsternwick.

Planning for our Centenary Celebrations in 2027.

FRANKSTON CROQUET CLUB

Finances

For the first time in several years the Club finished the year in a positive financial position and with the expectation this will continue in future.

New members

We have already 8 new members with the expectation of at least 2 more.

Supporting the Development of a New club in the City of Casey

The Club has been hosting a group of mainly new players hoping to establish a new club in the Cranbourne/Clyde area. The Club has been hosting a group of mainly new players hoping to establish a new club in the Cranbourne/Clyde area. Almost all are new to croquet and it would be great to have a Club established in such a fast growing area.

SANDRINGHAM CROQUET CLUB

Membership

The need to cap membership applications from non-Bayside residents so that our non-Bayside numbers do not exceed 25%.

Club Extension

We have received planning approval from Bayside City Council for the deck extension.

Referees

The fact that we have only one (GC) referee is a concern and impacting the scope for our teams to compete in SE Metro League.

Competitions and tournaments

Team members participate in state level and SE regional competition

An intra-club High-Low Doubles competition, with record numbers of members participating (40), was held during the first week of May.

Events, programs and developments

Social Events

Winter social events, held in the evening, are open to members and their partners.

Mentor Program

Keeping new/newish members: Based on feedback from some who have joined in the last year or so, it is clear that those most in need of mentors are singles who do not know any members and have no recent experience in playing comparable sports such as golf or bowls.

Club YouTube channel – including sharing instructional videos including a general ‘tour of the club’ (useful for new members) and another on setting up and clearing the courts before and after mowing.

Sponsorship

We have a new sponsorship arrangement with MedHP (exercise gym for older people).