

Croquet Australia

Annual Report 2016



ORABINDA CRO





ACA Office
Building 29
University of Canberra
University Drive
BRUCE ACT 2617

Australian Croquet Association
(Trading as Croquet Australia)
ABN 90 330 745 920
PO BOX 254
DICKSON, ACT 2602

Front Cover Left Downwards to Right

Peter Landrebe and Edward Wilson (Winner Inaugural Under 21 GC Championship)
Peter Freer and Greg Fletcher (Runner Up and Winner GC Open Singles)
Alison Sharpe (Winner AC Women's Singles, Winner GC Women's Singles)
Jim Saunders and Geoff Jamieson (ACA Director, Runner Up President's GC First Eights)
Ian Dumergue and Trevor Bassett (Winner and Runner Up Patron's Trophy)
Australian Team – GC Teams (Lester Hughes, Anne Quinn, Chris McWhirter, Wendy Dickson, Tony Hall (Referee))
Victorian Team (Wendy Dickson, Kerri-Ann Organ, Tricia Devlin, Elaine Coverdale, Malcolm Fletcher, Robert Fletcher, Stephen Forster, Rod Kirk, Anne Quinn) – Winner Eire Cup
Chris McWhirter (Winner President's GC First Eights)
Ross Rillie (Winner GC Handicap Singles)



AUSTRALIAN CROQUET ASSOCIATION

Introduction

The Australian Croquet Association (ACA) became incorporated in the ACT on Monday 10 February, 1992 – Incorporation Number is AO2004. It also trades as Croquet Australia and is recognised by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) as a National Sporting Organisation (NSO). Its main objective is to operate as the peak body for the administration of croquet in Australia.

Until early 2015, ACA had a Council which consisted of twelve delegates – two from each State Association – and an Executive responsible for the day to day management. On Monday 23 March 2015, the Members adopted a new constitution based on the Australian Sports Commission's – Constitution Template; Mandatory Sports and Governance Principles and Governance Principles – which was registered with the ACT Office of Regulatory Services. Approval was received on Thursday 9 April, 2015 and ACA moved from an Executive and Council to a Board structure.

Members

There are six voting Members -

- Croquet New South Wales Incorporated (includes the ACT)
- Croquet Association Queensland Incorporated
- South Australian Croquet Association Incorporated
- Tasmanian Croquet Association Incorporated
- The Victorian Croquet Association Incorporated
- The West Australian Croquet Association Incorporated

Affiliated Members

As at 31 December 2016, ACA had 9,335 Affiliated Members

State	2015		2016	
	Adult	Under 21	Adult	Under 21
NSW	3,079	7	3,086	7
VIC	2,756	4	2,751	8
QLD	1,349	3	1,387	8
SA	994	9	985	2
WA	675	2	702	2
TAS	372	0	396	1
Sub total	9,225	25	9,312	23
Total	9,250		9,335	

Meetings

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in Melbourne on Monday 21 March, the day following the conclusion of the Interstate cup.

The Special General Meeting (SGM) was convened the day after the Interstate Shield in Perth on Monday 12 September.

Member of two World Bodies

ACA is a full member of the World Croquet Federation and a member of the World Gateball Union.

Financial Year

ACA's financial year is 1 January to 31 December.

Banking

The ACA has two accounts – Operating Account to receive income and Treasurer's Account for expenditure.

Transactions

	Treasurer's Account		Operating Account	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
January	21	29	31	50
February	10	32	26	53
March	33	43	26	25
April	24	19	38	39
May	31	47	13	22
June	18	41	22	8
July	12	21	47	58
August	18	43	45	71
September	19	50	18	43
October	45	76	45	41
November	49	46	15	20
December	34	57	23	21
	314	504	349	451
Average per month	26	42	29	38

Investments

At the end of the year ACA had two investment portfolios – BT Financial Group (Westpac Australian Properties Fund) and MLC Share Fund and five term deposits.

Goods and Services Tax

Australian Croquet Association is registered for GST.

Board

Following the adoption of the constitution in March 2015 the makeup of the Board was outlined under the transitional arrangements – three of the First Directors were to come from the Executive (President, Senior Vice President and Vice-President) and the remaining six to be selected by their State Association.

Directors – 1 January to 21 March

Robyn Wallace, NSW – Chair,
Jim Clement, VIC
Bob Godfrey, TAS – Deputy Chair
David Taylor, SA
Megan Fardon, WA
Don Close, QLD
Jim Saunders – from the Executive as elected Senior Vice President
Tricia Vierra - from the Executive as elected Vice President

Secretary – Susan Linge

Directors – 22 March to 31 December

Robyn Wallace – Chair
Megan Fardon – Deputy Chair
Don Close – Treasurer
Mike Cohn
Jim Saunders
Murray Tinker
Graeme Thomas
Tricia Vierra

Secretary – Susan Linge



Left to Right: Graeme Thomas, Murray Tinker, Mike Cohn, Megan Fardon, Robyn Wallace, Jim Saunders, Don Close, Tricia Vierra.

Statement Chair – Robyn Wallace

At the 2016 AGM delegates elected two new Directors, Graeme Thomas and Murray Tinker. Proper procedures were followed to resolve a tied vote for the third new Director, eventually ending in a draw from the hat between Mike Cohn and Bob Godfrey resulting in Mike's becoming the third new Director. The three new Directors automatically hold their positions for a second year, i.e. until the 2018 AGM. Four Directors from a field of six should be elected for two years by delegates at the 2017 AGM.

The Board has more than satisfied constitutional requirements concerning the number of meetings which must be held in each Board year. Normally the Board has face-to-face meetings the day after the conclusion of the AC and GC State team events; the rest of the Board meetings use Skype. Directors prefer face-to-face meetings and two additional ones were held this Board year. The average cost for each, \$5,000, has been considered too high to justify and at this stage no additional face-to-face meetings have been scheduled for the next Board year.

A significant amount of time has been spent on ACA finances, with heroic efforts being put in by Treasurer Don Close and staff Susan Linge and Anne Mann. The Board has appointed new auditors who have approved without reservation all arrangements put in place. The Treasurer and staff are to be thanked and congratulated on their thoroughness and attention to detail.

The most important appointment made by the Board is that of Bob Godfrey as Chair of a new Policy and By-Laws Committee. In his November 2016 report Bob stated that the primary duty of the Committee is to the Board, but the Committee will operate both reactively [in response to Board requests] and proactively [in suggesting issues to the Board].

The first policy presented to the Board concerned the election of Directors. This policy was adopted by the Board, with minor alterations such as the deletion of section headings. The policy will be in operation for the 2017 AGM.

The Board has actively supported the formation of the GC Under 21 squad and is very pleased with the rapid development of our younger players, especially those who participated in recent world tournaments. Australia has a long way to go in this area, particularly in comparison with New Zealand, but at least a good start has been made. Many thanks to Jacky McDonald and her team.

We gave full support to our GC team which competed in May with excellent results, ensuring that Australia has now moved back into Tier One. The Board also supported the ten Australian entrants in the World AC Championships in Florida in April 2016. Currently we are involved in preparations for the MacRobertson Shield in which our team will be competing in California in April of this year. This is the most prestigious world AC croquet event there is. Competition is fierce but we have high hopes for the Australian team.

On the home scene the Board is pleased to acknowledge the restructuring of the coaching criteria and the delivery of the Level 1 programme nationally. Many thanks to Greg Whymark.

We would also like to thank all other officers and committees for their volunteer work in furthering the cause of croquet in its many forms. Croquet in Australia could not survive without your efforts. Special thanks to our magazine editor, Carolyn Ribone, who has at times laboured under great difficulties.

Three Board Directors were on the committee established by Croquet Victoria for the recent GC world championships. Thank you to Mike Cohn, Jim Saunders, and Graeme Thomas for your work.

March 27th will bring to an end my fifteen years of involvement with croquet administration at the club, state and national levels. It has been an interesting albeit often stressful time. As far as my period of two years as Chair of the ACA Board is concerned I would particularly like to thank the Deputy Chair Megan Fardon who has stepped in for me on various occasions, sometimes at very short notice, without complaint [at least to me].

I did ask all current Board members for recommendations as to what should be included in this report so trust there are no glaring omissions. One last suggestion to the incoming Board: please consider agreeing on specific areas of activity, not just liaison roles, to be allocated to all Directors. To me the Board suffers from having a lack of direction and a lack of real individual responsibility, thus differing from the now superseded ACA Executive.

Fortunately the new Board will not be hampered by having an even number of Directors, a situation which can lead to deadlocks because the Chair of the Board, unlike the ACA President of the past, no longer has a casting vote.

Very best wishes to all Directors on the incoming Board.
Robyn Wallace
[Board Chair 2015-17]

Appointed Officers

Association Croquet

High Performance Manager – Peter Landrebe

National Co-ordinator Refereeing – Mike Cohn

National Co-ordinator Coaching – Grey Whymark

Gateball

National Co-ordinator Gateball – John Park

Golf Croquet

National Co-ordinator Refereeing – Jim Clement

Under 21 Croquet

National Co-ordinator – Jacky McDonald

Handicapping

National Handicapper – Rob McAdam

Archivist

Martin Clarke

Magazine Editor

Carolyn Ribone

Australian Representation

WCF AC Laws Committee – Liz Fleming

WCF GC Rules Committee – Gordon Matthews

WCF Management Committee – Peter Landrebe



Positions Vacant – Golf Croquet

National Co-ordinator Coaching

High Performance Manager

Complaints Officer

Committees

Tournament

Trevor Bassett, Chair

Kevin Beard

Terry Ericson

Peter Landrebe

Event

Peter Freer, Chair

Bob Godfrey

Peter Tracey

AC Selection

Stephen Richards, Chair

Tim Murphy

Anne Quinn

Ian Dumergue (Australian Team Captain)

Peter Landrebe

GC Selection

John Compton, Chair (until Sept.)

Terry Ericson, Chair (Sept. onwards)

Lester Hughes

Anne Quinn

Chris McWhirter (Australian Team Captain)

Strategic Plan

Steve Thornton, Chair

Tricia Vierra

Policy/By-Laws

Bob Godfrey, Chair

RESULTS

Association Croquet

Dates	Venue	Event	Winner	Runner Up
Wednesday 9 to Friday 11 March	Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea	Gold Medal	Simon Hockey (Gold)	Jeff Newcombe (Silver)
Saturday 12 to Tuesday 15 March	Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea	Women's Singles	Alison Sharpe	Elaine Coverdale
Saturday 12 to Tuesday 15 March	Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea	Men's Singles	Robert Fletcher	Simon Hockey
Wednesday 16 to Sunday 20 March	Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea	Eire Cup	Victoria	South Australia
Saturday 11 to Monday 13 June	Moorabinda Croquet Club	Patron's Trophy	Ian Dumergue	Trevor Bassett
Friday 7 to Monday 10 October	Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea	President's Eights – First Eight	Robert Fletcher	Malcolm Fletcher
		Second Eight	Kevin Beard	Claire Bassett
		Third Eight	Kenn Boal	Jannine Hawker
		Women's Eight	Virginia Arney	Gail Hopkins
Saturday 19 to Monday 22 November	Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea	Open Doubles	Robert Fletcher and Malcom Fletcher	Ian Dumergue and Stephen Forster
Tuesday 23 to Sunday 27 November	Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea	Open Singles	Robert Fletcher	Malcolm Fletcher
		AB Morrison Trophy	Terry Hopkins	

International Representation

Dates	Event	Venue	Australian Representatives
Saturday 16 Sunday 24 April	WCF AC WC	National Croquet Centre, West Palm Beach, Florida, USA	Claire Bassett, Alan Honey, Alan Walsh, Callum Hyland, Dwayne McCormick, Greg Fletcher, Ian Dumergue, Jim Nicholls, Kevin Beard, Peter Landrebe, Stephen Forster

Golf Croquet

Dates	Venue	Event	Winner	Runner Up
Friday 15 to Sunday 16 January	Newcastle Croquet Club	Inaugural Under 21	Edward Wilson	Lachlan Mula
Friday 5 to Sunday 7 February	Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea	President's Eights – First Eight	Chris McWhirter	Geoff Jamieson
		Second Eight	Terry Hopkins	Graham Whiteway
		Third Eight	Kyle Mula	Steve Thornton
		Women's Eight	Virginia Arney	Kate Logan
Saturday 7 to Tuesday 10 May	Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea	Open Doubles	Anne Quinn and Wendy Dickson	Geoff Jamieson and Lawrie Simpson
Wednesday 11 to Sunday 15 May	Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea	Open Singles	Greg Fletcher	Peter Freer
Wednesday 31 August to Friday 2 September	Forrest Park Croquet Club, WA	Gold Medal	Chris McWhirter (Gold)	Lawrie Simpson (Silver)
Saturday 3 to Tuesday 6 September	Venues Perth, WA	Women's Singles	Alison Sharpe	Gail Hopkins
Saturday 3 to Tuesday 6 September	Venues Perth, WA	Men's Singles	John van der Touw	Martin Clarke
Wednesday 7 to Sunday 10 September	Venues Perth, WA	WCF Interstate Shield	Victoria	Western Australia
Saturday 24 to Sunday 25 September	Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea	Under 21	Jack Williams	Charlie Sharpe
Monday 24 to Tuesday 25 October	Deniliquin Croquet Club	Handicap Doubles	Doug Leabeater and Peter Moffat	Darren McLoughlin and Kaye Moffat
Tuesday 25 to Friday 28 October	Deniliquin Croquet Club	Handicap Singles	Ross Rillie	Warwick Hempel

WCF International Representation

Dates	Event	Venue	Team Members
Sunday 15 to Friday 20 May	WCF GC Teams – Tier 2	Bath, Camerton & Peasdown Croquet Clubs	Chris McWhirter, Captain Wendy Dickson, Anne Quinn, Lester Hughes, John van der Touw, Team Manager, Reserve

ENTRY NUMBERS

Association Croquet

	2015	2016	
		Budget	Actual
Women's Singles	19	24	29
Men's Singles	34	40	38
Patron's Trophy	16	16	12
Open Doubles	12 pairs	12 pairs	14 pairs
Open Singles	24	24	24

Golf Croquet

	2015	2016	
		Budget	Actual
Inaugural Under 21	N/A		5
Open Doubles	15 pairs	10 pairs	17 pairs
Open Singles	26	26	25
Women's Singles	26	26	26
Men's Singles	30	30	41
Under 21	N/A		5
Handicap Doubles	12 pairs	12 pairs	15 pairs
Handicap Singles	17	18	26

Treasurer's Report – Don Close

It is with pleasure that I report on the Financial Status of ACA. I commenced as Treasurer following the AGM in April 2016 and have had a steep learning curve as to the financial workings of our Association.

The reports being presented to this meeting are for years 2015 and 2016. Due to problems with our previous Auditor, misplacement of several documents and several other issues, the audited reports for 2015 were unable to be presented in 2016. During this year, we have reconstructed the history of 2015 into MYOB while also using MYOB for all our current year. With all intentions of presenting 2015 reports earlier than this, the extent of work needed has resulted in both being presented at this meeting.

Our Auditor, Michael Pedler of Trevalsa Mill Pty Ltd., has been very helpful in guiding us to a position where we have a virtually unqualified audit for 2016. This result could not have been achieved without the dedication and commitment of our Administrative Officer, Susan Linge, and Financial Assistant, Anne Mann.

Our budget for 2016 forecasted a deficit of \$69,864, and we have ended with a surplus of \$32,557. Projects anticipated to be completed in 2016 did not proceed as quickly as expected but are predicted to be concluded during 2017. The surplus is mostly due to an increase in value of our investments of \$28,042. These numbers do get distorted by the International Levy because the expenditure is not consistent over a four-year cycle. The International Levy expenditure in 2017 is significantly higher than income.

The proposed Budget for 2017 is indicating a large deficit and the projections of expenditure over the next 4 years have necessitated a request to increase fees in 2018. ACA. has increased payments in 2017 for court hire and made provision for support for referees at our tournaments. We are grateful for the continued support by the volunteers who give of their time and expertise on committees and tournaments throughout the year. This helps to maintain the entry costs of events at a reasonable level.

The Board are of the opinion that the Financial Statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Australian Croquet Association as at 31 December, 2016 and of its performance, as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows for the financial year ended on that date.

The Association was solvent for the full year. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.



Don Close, Treasurer