

January
2026

Mosman Croquet Club Newsletter



President
Joanne Nimmons

**Vice President and
Membership**
Chris Gingell

Secretary
Tim Cormack

Treasurer
Michael Chang

**Games Captain and
Coaching**
Rob Wright

AC Captain
John Fransen

Grounds Captain
Tony Michaels

General Committee
Rob Boyer
John Fransen
Monique Gingell

Sub-Committees:
Games
Events
Handicap
Membership Review
Strategic Planning

Property manager
John Fransen

GC Referees
Michael Chambers
Michael Chang
Michael Morton-Evans

From Joanne our President

Dear all,

All our thanks to Greg and Marion Breden, Belinda Kerr, Helen Klugston, Rosie Mott and Michael Chang, for all their help in making our first event for 2026, MCC Australia Day Breakfast such a wonderful celebration of those values so important to us all, friendship, community and support for each other. Congratulations to John Fransen and Greg Deakin for winning the 7 Hoops competition, and Salda and Ian Pedley for coming second. Thanks to everyone who attended, a great morning.

A very successful Australia Day CNSW event at Government House. This was organized by Fidy Westgarth, her hard work and organization was so much appreciated by all. Many thanks to the 11 MCC members who helped out at the event. A fantastic opportunity to promote croquet, and wonderful to see so many families enjoying themselves, surrounded by the magnificent Government House gardens.

The MEM (Mosman/Elanora/Manly) GC Tournament is coming up on the 3rd and 4th March 2026. Tuesday 3rd March will be held at Manly. The last day, Wednesday 4th March, will be held at Mosman. Elanora is providing the refreshments, which is always very much looked forward to and appreciated by all.

Many thanks to Rob Wright, as new MCC Games Captain, for organizing the meeting with interested Division 3 Pennants players (15/01/26). A well-attended meeting in which everyone expressed their thanks to Penny for her long-standing contributions to MCC as Games Captain. Really good to see some new faces who are interested in playing Pennants for MCC. A very big thank you to Sue Clubbe, for her very much appreciated role as Assistant Games Captain. Sue and Penny's contributions have been invaluable for MCC.

Take care,
See you on the lawns,
Joanne

MCC Volunteers at Government House on Australia Day Setting up the lawns and coaching the many visitors all organized by Fidy Westgarth



PIC•COLLAGE



Upcoming Events 2026

2 & 3 March
The MEM Trophy

Pennants
Div 2 and 3
March – July

AC Women’s
Singles
Championship
19-21 June

GC Bronze Medal
24-26 July



Members are requested to play by the **rules** in all games including social games. This helps improve your croquet skills. Things to watch out for are **offside balls, double taps, crush shots** and **wrong ball played**.

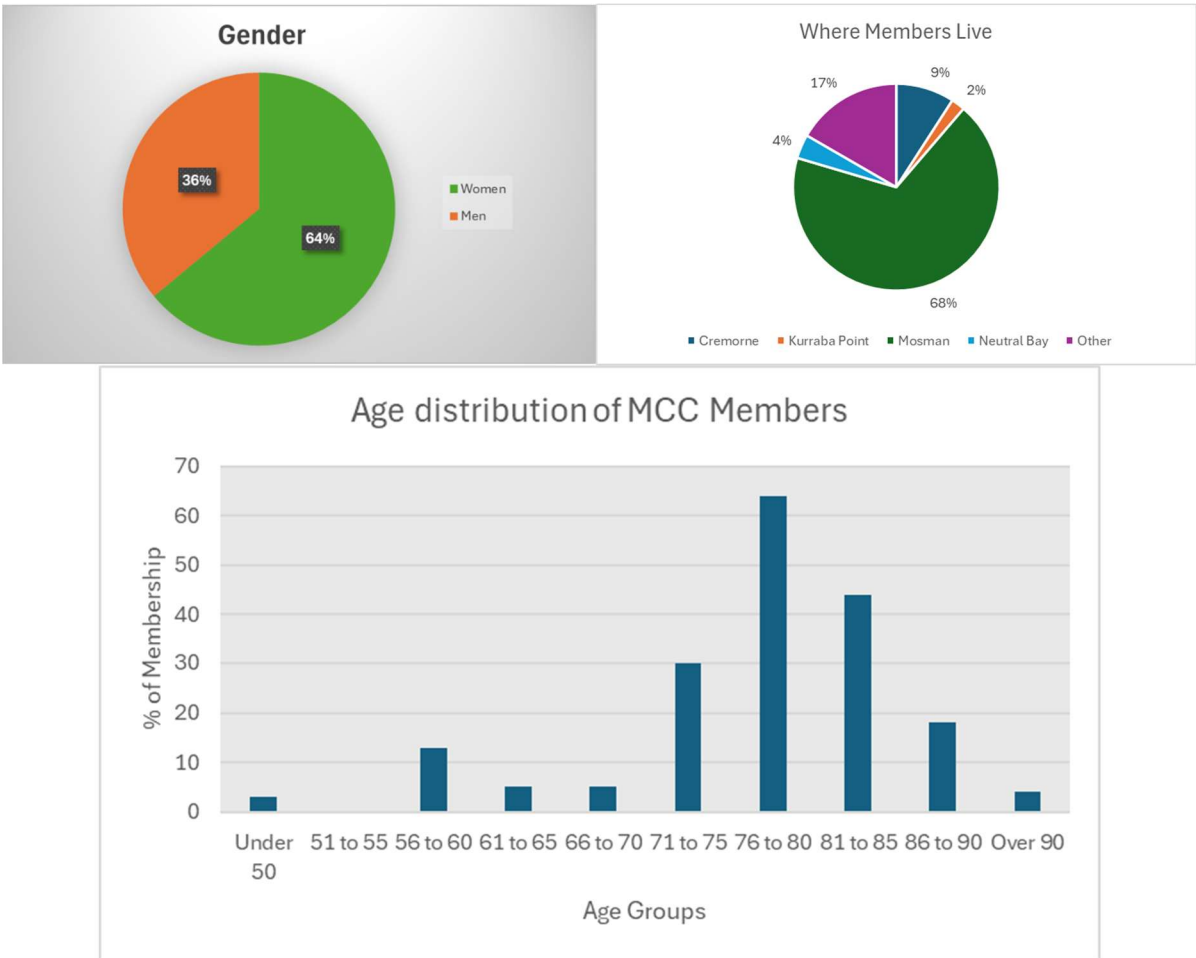
Lift hoop with a vertical pull or use the Hoop-Lifter

Do not shake or waggle the hoops

Use Allen Key to tighten hoops or write in daily diary book to notify Grounds Team

From Chris, VP and Membership

As of January 2026, our club has 186 members comprised of 3 Life Members, 172 Full Members and 11 Social Members. A snapshot of our membership profile is provided in the charts below.



From Tony our Grounds Captain

Hoop setting on all lawns going forward into 2026 have been adjusted with the cavity not set as deep as previously. The Hoops are intended to sit proud of the grass with the top of the carrot clearly above ground level. Players are reminded to tap the hoop into position, with the rubber hammer, tapping down until firm but do not hammer into the cavity. The hoops should be positioned as firm and tight and when lifting up **please use the Hoop Lifter** or call for help.

Spot spraying for Ricada Weed on Lawns 3 & 4 is underway and will continue for several WEEKS UNTIL WE SEE SOME POITIVE IMPROVEMENTS. Players are reminded to wash hands after touching the balls and at the conclusion of your game. Never play on the lawns with bare feet and soft rubber sole shoes should be washed clean after competition.

Lawn 1 is closed.

From Richard our Competition Manager

Welcome to the start of our 2026 competition programme. You have already received a copy of the Competition and Pennants Calendar, so you’ll see that first up is the Torbreck Top 10 - our club’s GC handicap singles championship.

Ten of our high-ranking members will play a total of 45 games over February and March using a new version of the Advantage GC handicap system. This has recently been trialled worldwide, including at Mosman, and it does make the game easier. Different Target Scores are allocated to each player, depending on their handicap rating. For example, in 7 hoop game, the stronger player may have to score 9 hoops and the other only 6 hoops. First to get their target score is the winner. New guides and handicap charts will be available on our website and in the GC competition folders.

Finally, playing times will be impacted by competitions in the usual way. Lawns are often booked during open play, and at other times games may be played if lawns are available. This year, we will also have one lawn down for maintenance during part of the period.

The Top 10 competition players this year are Aniko Osvald, John Fransen, Bob Berry, Rob Wright, Steve Miles, Michael Chambers, David Adams, Charlie Osvald, Michael Chang and John Nichols. The competition starts on 1st February the 9 games can be played over the next two months. Lawns are booked online in Open Play sessions or during the GC singles sessions on Friday mornings.



Apprenticeship Offered for Grounds Group

A unique opportunity presents itself for one member (or two) of Mosman Croquet Club (MCC) to join the active squad of the OGG (Grounds Group).

Some experience in lawn care and horticulture would be welcome; however, this is not essential and on the job training would be offered and you would be buddied up with one of our experienced team members. With 4 Lawns in regular play there is always lawn maintenance required, and you would be volunteering to a worthy cause within our Club.

A successful applicant would be eligible to play in the OGG competition (Wed and Sat afternoon) should they so wish. Applications may be sent to Grounds Captain < tonymichaels@gmail.com> (M 0413 440 307) or left in an envelope in the Clubhouse marked Grounds Captain, please ensure your contact details are included.



Maintenance

Constant maintenance is carried out by John Fransen to ensure that MCC property is in good condition. The most recent includes ensuring that the bolts of the Green Shed are corrected and the lock is easily workable again. The Annex door lock was fixed. Timber floors in main club house are also undergoing inspection checks.



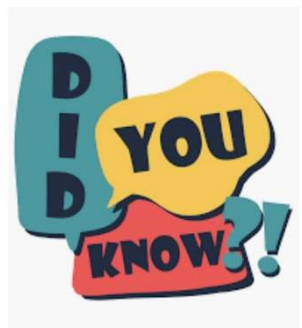
Let's hear Your Story

Members are encouraged to share their story, a croquet related story be it whilst visiting other clubs in Australia or OS, poems, or photos of events. This way other members can get to see we are all part of a wonderful croquet community at MCC.

You can send your contributions to gingellmonique@gmail.com



- Ricochet Saturday mornings at 11.30 am. All welcome. No previous experience needed. You will be partnered with someone who can help.
- Social Saturday from 1.30 pm. All welcome. Have a game or two, bring drinks and nibbles and join other members.
- Social Sunday, the first Sunday of every month from 2.30 pm. Same as social Saturday. First Social Sunday is Sunday 1st February.



In Sydney Morning Herald 31/01/26 Good Weekend there is an article on Croquet.



See You On The Lawns