

Happy New Year!!!

MCC Newsletter – January 2021



Diary Dates:

Australia Day Sausage Sizzle: on Tuesday 26 January 2021

Come and join other members for a game of golf croquet and a light lunch, from 12 noon. \$10 per head – BYO drinks. RSVP and pay in advance: See list at the Clubhouse.

Opening of the Lawns Party: Saturday 6 March 2021

Our first major Club event for 2021 will be our Party to open the newly renovated Lawns. Watch out for Invitation Flyer with details.

NSW GC Pennants start 1 March 2021.

The Mosman Bash, 21–23 May 2021: open Handicap AC Tournament

We hope everyone had a wonderful festive season and enjoyed a relaxing holiday even if COVID managed to disrupt some family Christmas lunches. A few club members even got together and shared leftovers on New Year's Day with a game of croquet.

LAWNS RE-Opened

Thank you for your patience whilst the Lawns have been closed for renovation. Summer is the best time for our lawns to grow quickly, and we have been fortunate in recent weeks to have frequent rainfalls. **Lawns 1, 2, 3, and 4 and the Practice Lawn are now open.**

ENJOY!!

Thanks again to the Grounds Team for opening up all the hoop holes for us, which requires meticulous measuring and hole making – with lots of time on their poor 'old' knees!!!!

Please help the holes to last longer by observing the instructions for looking after the hoop holes (on the equipment cupboard doors).



AC Players stop for an occasional cup of tea

COVID Update

The recent occurrences of corona virus in Northern Beaches, and in Berala and linked locations, made everyone nervous over Christmas and New Year. Fortunately these numbers were brought under control due to excellent contact tracing, and people affected have been diligent in complying with government requests.

We are very pleased to be able to continue our sport of croquet, as it lends itself so well to COVID prevention guidelines, in particular:

- **Stay away** from croquet if you have any symptoms of cough or cold;
- Maintain distance of **at least 1.5m** at all times
- **Wash hands** (or sanitise) frequently;
- Stay outdoors when mixing with others
- **ALWAYS register** in Attendance Book whenever you come to the club

The government has asked everyone to register using QR Codes whenever they are out and about. We understand that some of our members do not have phones set up for QR Codes, therefore we ask that **EVERYONE sign-in to the Attendance Book**, noting approximate time of arrival.

If possible, members should also sign in using QR code, as it allows immediate Services NSW notification should it be required..

Kitchen Update: - there are changes which we are asking all members to note for their protection.

- Dishwasher only – no rinsing by hand. Ask someone if you cannot start the dishwasher.
- No tea towels. Please use paper towel only.

- Wipe down benches and remove rubbish each day.

Please be very careful with hygiene at the Clubhouse and Annexe. Never leave food out for ants and cockroaches!!!!...and EVERYONE share the load with stacking and emptying the dishwasher and keeping our Clubhouse neat and clean.

Croquet Notes:

The Eire Cup : 17-23 March 2021

We have recently learned that The Eire Cup (National Competition for AC State Teams) has been cancelled for 2021 – due to inter-state difficulties with COVID-risk.

We hope our club will be involved next year when the National Tournament is set to be held once more in Sydney.

NSW GC Pennants Competition 2021

Invitations are currently going out for all Divisions in the Pennants, which will start from 1 March. When you get your email, please reply ASAP to Richard Westgarth (GC Games Captain).

Players Pathway to Excellence Program (PPEP)

The PPEP is directed to players seeking to compete in structured competitions. There will be two 2-day coaching sessions for GC players – on 15-16 and on 22-23 Feb. An AC session will be held in March.

Please note: Lawns 1 & 2 will be closed for other players on the PPEP Mondays and Tuesdays.

Numbers are limited to 6-8 per session. Many responses came from those who do not wish to compete in formal competitions. This highlights club members' interest in receiving further coaching. Even if they are only playing at social level they still want to play well, and to WIN!!!!

There are plans afoot to assist members at all levels to improve their game in 2021.

Club Culture.....

Croquet is becoming more and more popular these days – and why not!!!! Our club has a reputation for friendliness, and sharing – even though this might be difficult when some lawns are closed.

If there are people waiting for a game, do come off the lawn on completion of your game and offer the space to them – or invite them to join you, if there is room for another in your game.

Farewell to Ron Barratt

It's farewell to Mosman Croquet Club stalwart Ron Barratt, who is moving to Melbourne with wife Gerri.



During a decade with the club, Ron played a major role as Grounds captain and garden carer, as well as making his mark on the courts where his achievements

included winning our Division 3 golf croquet singles for two years, and teaming with Griselda Prins to win the Martyn Prins Trophy.

Introduced to the club by Rob Boyer, Ron took a keen interest in the grounds and took on the grounds captain role when Robert Gibson retired from the job. He also was involved in ramping up the club's water storage to ensure the healthy supply we enjoy today.

A journalist by trade, Ron says he still loves newspapers which were his life for half a century, mostly in Western Australia in senior editorial roles with papers such as the Daily News and the Sunday Times. He also had a four-year overseas stint working on publications including the Daily Sketch in London, and the Toronto Telegram in Canada.

Ron describes the club as a terrific organisation with great people. "It's a wonderful family where I have made a lot of firm friends," he says.

The club will miss the Barratts, who are moving for family reasons. Hopefully we will see them back here, visiting, before too long.

See you on the Lawns!!

If you see **anyone at the Club whom you do not know**, DO introduce yourself to them and make them welcome. They may be new members – we have had 18 new members join since August 2020. They may even be established members who have not been used to playing when you come, so this is a great chance to get to know other people.