

August
2026

Mosman Croquet Club Newsletter



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Chris Gingell

Vice President
Cali Craig

Treasurer
Atholl Robertson

Secretary
Monique Gingell

Games Captain
Steve Anthony

Grounds Captain
Tony Michaels

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John Fransen

Welfare Liaison
Catherine Cripps

Catering
Belinda Kerr
Helen Clugston

Functions coordinator
Michael Chambers

Events coordinator
Tori Cormak

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Kathy Abbott
Jo Beatttie
Kate Chambers
Libby McDonald

Communication / Info
Anthea Piddington
Fidye Westgarth

GC Referees
Michael Chambers
Michael Chang



Upcoming Events 2026

Div 1 GC Pennants
Morning of 29th
August and morning
of 10th October

GC Club Championship

**Martin Prins
Trophy**
13th September

Mosman Prize
Singles GC
6th - 8th November

From Chris our President and Membership Coordinator

Congratulations to [De Howarth](#) and [Cali Craig](#) for becoming our Club Champions in the GC Division 2 and 3 competitions respectively.

Thanks to a strong focus on coaching Division 3 players, we were fortunate to have three teams compete in the Metro North Zone, with Mosman White progressing all the way through to the State final held in Nelson Bay. Take a bow Mosman White: [John Cripps](#) (Captain), [Ian Cameron](#), [Cath Cripps](#), [Patricia Petterson](#), [Richard Westgarth](#) and [Lindsay Wood](#).



As our two GC Division 1 teams progress in their competition, we are detecting a renewed sense of purpose and competitive ambition within the club.

Your Committee is making headway on a range of issues:

- [Cali](#) will be establishing a Social Subcommittee to develop a stronger events program for all members to enjoy.
- [Atholl](#) has taken a firm hold on the Treasurer's role.
- [Steve](#) is reinvigorating the Games Subcommittee with a new approach to developing croquet skills across AC, GC and Ricochet.
- I am working with [Cali](#) and [Steve](#) on a grant to help fund coaching in 2026/27.
- [Tony](#) and [Rob](#) have an extra water tank to improve the resilience of Lawns 3 & 4 against the predicted extreme weather this summer.
- [Sue](#), [Cath](#) and [Steve](#) have been working with me on improving the experience for our new members. Shortly, we will be inviting people from the club's waiting list to attend coaching lessons as a key step before becoming members.
- [Monique](#) and I attended a meeting of the Presidents and Secretaries of clubs in our area for an 'ideas exchange' at Manly. The clubs included Mosman, Chatswood, Cheltenham, Elanora, Holroyd, Killara and Mona Vale, plus guests Cammeray and Marrickville. It was fascinating to hear the similarities and differences between Mona Vale, a new club, and Manly, which is about to celebrate its 125th year of operation.

We also took time to thank [Michael Morton-Evans](#) who has retired from long service to the club as a GC Referee. We will continue to see Michael on the lawns and as a member of the Grounds Team.



The Committee looks forward to working with all members to further enhance our beautiful club.

Chris Gingell

From Steve Anthony our Games Captain

Social media accounts
Facebook:
Mosman Croquet Club

Instagram:
mosman_croquet_club



Division 1

Division 1 Pennants has commenced. [Alison Sharpe](#), [Aniko Osvald](#) and [Rob Elliot & Bob Berry](#) won their first match 3-0 against Cooks River on 10 August. [Ron Humpheson](#), [John Fransen](#) and [Bronwyn & David McGrane](#) won their first AC match 2-1 against Cammeray On 20 August.

Members are encouraged to watch Div 1 pennants and Club Championship matches as good entertainment and learning experience. Dates and times will be posted on the Competition Notice Board.

[Alison Sharpe](#) and [Aniko Osvald](#) will be competing in NSW GC Doubles tournament in Newcastle 21-23 August.

Ricochet

Thanks to [Rob Wright](#) for organising a second round of coaching ricochet techniques. This is of great value even if players don’t intend to play ricochet because it helps develop skills such as hoop running, cannoning balls off other balls at the right angle and improving line and length.

We are considering adding a ricochet competition to the Annual Competitions Calendar. Please let Madeleine Gray or Steve Anthony know if you’d be interested in participating.



COACHING FOR MEMBERS

Learning Ricochet Croquet

Exclusively for members wishing to enhance their croquet play

Running hoops

Sharpen accuracy and control on approach and through the hoop.

Line and length

Build consistent striking so your ball finishes where you want it.

Ricochet play

Learn to cannon your ball off other balls to gain position.

WHEN

Sessions start in the third and fourth weeks of August

COACH

Rob Wright — a qualified Ricochet coach

TO JOIN

Registration of interest is required

AFTERWARDS

Contact Madelaine Gray for social play Saturday mornings

Besides enjoying another social game of croquet, you will improve your GC play — especially if you go on to play Ricochet regularly.

Register your interest — Phone/Text Rob on 0416 161 863 or email to: coaching.at.mcc@gmail.com

Martyn Prins Trophy

This event will be held on 13th September. Entries close on 6th September.

Division 2 & 3 Pennants 2027

There will be a meeting to discuss 2027 Div 2 & 3 Pennants at the Club House at 12 pm on Monday 31 August. All players interested in playing Div 2 or Div 3 Pennants next year or learning more about it are encouraged to attend.

Handicaps

Congratulations to [Jim](#) and [Lorrie Clarke](#) and [Lindsay Wood](#) for getting their handicap down to 8 and so graduating to Division 2 for next year.

[Ron Humpherson](#) is Club Handicapper for AC and [Richard Westgarth](#) is Club Handicapper for GC. [Rob Wright](#) will assist both of them.

Coaching

One of the subjects to be discussed at the meeting on 31 August will be what coaching should be offered during the rest of this year and next year.

Country NSW Croquet

Croquet NSW has invited MCC members to participate in the following competitions in regional NSW:

- 13-16 October Urunga GC Singles
- 23-25 October Gateball Doubles and Teams Event Nowra
- 4 November Bathurst Day of Fun & Social GC

Flyers are near the sign in book at the Club House. Contact [Cali Craig](#) if you’re interested.

The weather is improving. I hope to see you all on the lawns and playing or watching competition matches.

Thank you, [Richard Westgarth](#), for organising a great Div 3 Club Championship and compiling the following report.

Steve Anthony

Games Captain

From Richard Wesgarth GC Competitions manager

GC Competitions

Congratulations to [Cali Craig](#), our **Division 3 Champion** for 2026. She joins a list that includes multiple winners and even club champions. Part of her success, especially in the finals, has been her consistent approach shots and excellent clearances. And, most effective were her stop shots. She has usually kept her ball close to the hoop while her opponents had a difficult return ...very effective!

Runner up in the final was [Jim Clarke](#) (again) who has also shown consistency throughout but was unable to continue that into the last game.

Overall, the competition has been one of the best we’ve had in years. It has been played with enthusiasm and commitment and has included quite a few people new to competition. Both new and experienced players have increased their overall performance, especially their skills and attitude. Some are now in division 2 as a result. How has this happened? Well, probably the answer is through the efforts of [Rob Wright](#), [Steve Anthony](#) and [Rosie Landrebe](#). They have brought a team together, provided a regular timeslot, coached everyone very well and exposed them to competition. Thanks go to them.



Next on Mosman’s Competition Calendar is the **Club Championship** and it is already underway. This year we have ten of our top ranked members split over two blocks in the round robin series. Block games will be longer than usual - the winners need to run 10 hoops. The top two in each block will then play a finals series. In the finals, each match will be “best of three games” but the games will revert to the normal 7 hoops. If you can get to see any of these games, you will enjoy them and no doubt learn from them. We’ll put a list of known games on the clubhouse noticeboard but be aware that details may change.

Richard Westgarth

From Fidy Westgarth Tournament Manager, NSW GC Bronze Medal 2026

NSW GC Bronze Medal 2026

The 2026 GC Bronze Medal was hosted by Mosman Croquet Club, 24-26 July. This tournament is held by invitation to the top players in NSW, conditional upon being available to represent NSW in the national Gold Medal tournament to be held at Cairnlee in Victoria in September. In addition, the host club may nominate one of their top players for the experience.

The eight contestants had handicaps ranging -2 to +2, and included top GC players from across NSW:

		<u>Handicap</u>
Alison Sharpe	Mosman	-2
Kevin McGlynn	Canberra	-1
Mark Scruton	Canberra	-1
Steven Harden	Tamworth	0
Robert Ey	Canberra	0
Chris Williamson	Toronto	1
Bob Berry	Chatswood	2
Aniko Osvald	Mosman	2



The tournament was held as a round-robin level-play format, each player playing their seven opponents in best of three standard 13-hoop games. Spectators enjoyed the high level of play, particularly the accuracy of the long clearing shots.

[Mark Scruton](#) won the tournament, with [Alison Sharpe](#) a close runner-up. They each won an equal number of matches, with Mark winning on the countback of actual games won. These two players will represent NSW in the national Gold Medal tournament.

Appreciation goes to Tournament Referee Michael Chang, who organised all of the refereeing, and to referees [Michael Morton-Evans](#), [Blake Thompson](#), [Michael Chambers](#), [Peter Sinclair](#), and [Terry Abbott](#) for their contribution over the three-day tournament.

Mosman Club would like to thank the generosity of club members, giving up three of their lawns for 3.5 days, as well as all for the assistance with catering and supervision of the tournament. Special thanks to [Belinda Kerr](#) and [Helen Clugston](#) for all their work in planning and providing hospitality for the event. Croquet NSW reimbursed Mosman Croquet Club \$1,100 for the use of our lawns for this tournament.

Fidye Westgarth
Tournament Manager, NSW GC Bronze Medal 2026

From our Grounds Captain Tony



Members will note the installation of a new water tank on the southern boundary of Lawn 3 and this will increase our water storage by c 6000 litre’s, with one additional tank to be installed beside the Clubhouse practice lawn of c 3500 litre capacity. These capital works improvements come at a considerable cost to our Club but are deemed as important improvements to the long-term benefit of improving the maintenance of our Lawns.

With the likely prospect of a long hot and dry summer ahead we need to be prepared and these additional water tanks will assist the Club to reduce our Sydney water bills.

Tony Michaels



Contributor Jim Clark

Composition about Croquet

Division Three: Croquet State Pennants Final

Div 3 State final, held at Nelson Bay.

Our team of six made up the State's top four.

Round Robin format, a day and a half.

Winner decided by most matches won.

Richard, wily veteran, started out well,

But when his legs gave out, Ian stepped-up,

Held his nerve to win, as the sun went down,

Lost next day: his opponent on seven.

Patricia, valiant, fought to the last,

A fiercesome roqueter, she rarely missed.

A CRACK from her mallet, a CRACK as she hit.

Nine games in ten hours, she came so close.

Lindsay, unflappable, 'king' of the cast,

Cathy, focused, despite cracked kneecap,

Some questionable calls, did not phase them,

Triumphed together, through shared strategy.

As Captain, John dealt with rules in dispute,

Inconsistences between referees.

With Cathy played, the afternoon doubles,

Put up a brave fight, but they fell just short.

Lorrie kept Div 3 fan-base informed,

Posting updates and shots of match play.

Players and 'groupies' enjoyed Cali's treats,

Throughout the season, supported us all.

Trailblazers in reaching the State final.

Though they did not come back with the trophy,

Showed Mosman's a force to be reckoned with,

They've set a benchmark, to better next year.

Jim Clarke July 2026



- It is the responsibility of each member to correctly install and remove hoops. If unsure, please refer to chart in the clubhouse. Soil is available in buckets on all lawns.
- Members interested in Div 2 and Div 3 Pennants, please attend meeting in the clubhouse on Monday 31st august at 12.00 pm for information and general discussion.
- Request for event ideas; please send response to Cali Craig.
- The Committee cares about MCC community. If you are unwell, know of anyone in difficulty, [Catherine Cripps](#) is MCC's Welfare Liaison Contact, mobile: 0414413020.

- If your contact details have changed... address, phone number or email address, or you know of someone whose details have changed, please contact Monique on gingellmonique@gmail.com to update and ensure all communications are received.



The following clubs are holding the following events:

Uranga Croquet Club – 15th Annual Golf Croquet Singles Carnival 13th -16th October 2026.

Bathurst Croquet Club – Social golf Croquet 4th November 2026.

Nowra Croquet Club – State Gateball Championships 23rd – 25th October 2026.

If interested Flyers and information are in the clubhouse near signing on book.



Do you need MCC clothing items?

MCC tops in preparation for 2027 competitions.

To order, write your name on the list in the club house or contact **Madeleine Gray**.

Mobile: 0414531357

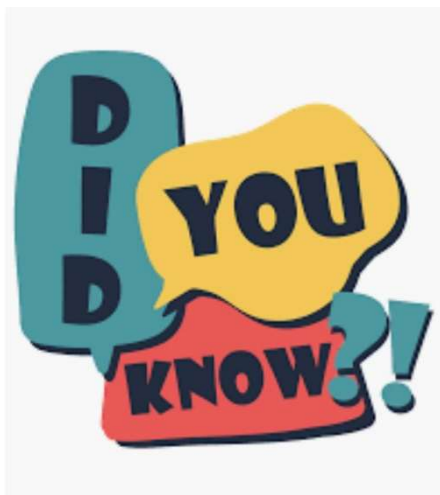
Email: madeleinegray@hotmail.com



- Keep your head still until the ball has left the mallet.
- Watch the striking point, not the target, during the swing.
- Think one hoop ahead.



- **Social Saturday** starts from 1.30 pm. All welcome. Have a few games, bring drinks and nibbles, and share the rest of the afternoon socialising with members.
- **Ricochet** Saturday mornings **11.30** start. Now that some of you have been taking Ricochet lessons Come and Play.
- **Social Sunday, 6th September**, the first Sunday of every month from 2.30 pm. Same as social Saturday.



Some of the best golf croquet players in the world come from Egypt. They learned and excelled on the courts left behind by the British.

Traditional 19th century croquet balls were made of boxwood or sycamore. Modern croquet balls are made of solid plastic, composite materials, or cold-moulded polyurethane resin.



There will be disruptions to traffic using Effingham Street and Alexander Ave from 24th August.

Members will be able to access the club and nearby parking via Croquet Lane.

Aniko Osvald and Rob Ey won the NSW GC Open Doubles Final played at Toronto on the week end.



Brian Day recently celebrated his 90th Birthday.



[See you on the lawns](#)