



# Cammeray Croquet Club



**September 2022**

<http://www.cammeray-croquet.org.au>

## Club News

### Coaching

Neil Hardie is offering coaching for more experienced bronze/silver players on Friday mornings, 9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. on 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October. A maximum of six people. Register for lawn 2 on these days if you are interested.

Neil is also offering coaching for GC players who are interested in learning AC. The first session of the current course is on Thursday afternoon 13<sup>th</sup> October with subsequent sessions on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October. All sessions 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. There is room for two more in the present course. Contact Neil Hardie on [nhardie@ozemail.com.au](mailto:nhardie@ozemail.com.au) if interested.

### Trolley

The lawn divider trolley has been replaced due to the original being stolen. Ron Elliott has modified the trolley purchased, to ensure that the dividers are held in place securely during transit in such a way that the steering of the trolley is not impeded. He has also cut a hole in the mesh decking so the trolley can be secured via a chain to one of the bus shelters. The club key unlocks the padlock.

### The Garden

There have been some developments in the garden beside the tennis courts recently. A large eucalypt had to be removed because it was too close to the tennis courts; it has been replaced by a grevillea, which should be very attractive. Liz Nash has acquired several more native plants for this garden as well as for the Ex-African Olive Tree garden. All of these have now been planted so hopefully with watering twice a week & warmer weather soon they will flourish along with the ones previously planted. The birds & the bees will be happy.

Our thanks to Liz Nash, Margaret O'Brien, Lucy Rees and Jane Taylor for the work they do in the gardens.



Remains of the old gum tree



new plants from Liz



Council workers planting the replacement grevillea

## An Interview with Barbara McDonald



*Where were you born and where did you grow up?*

I was born in Coffs Harbour NSW and went to school there.

*Where did you study?*

At the University of New England in Armidale followed by Armidale teachers' College.

I met my life partner Alan Walsh at University.

Our first "date" was completing a logic assignment together for the Philosophy Course we were both studying.

*You were a teacher until you retired – do you have any stories from your teaching career?*

My first teaching appointment was at Quirindi High School.

Quirindi is a small country town near Tamworth.

Quite a daunting experience, arriving as an inexperienced teacher, knowing no-one and having to find one's way in the world.

For my first year I found board with a lovely old lady who cooked me a hot breakfast and heated a chip heater for hot water for my bath every day.

*You are a top-level bridge player: when did you take up bridge? What are the highlights of your bridge exploits?*

Alan discovered bridge at University and became addicted.

Of course I had to learn as well! I had had no card playing experience what-so-ever.

However, I was lucky to learn bridge from some very bright and savvy people.

Most of my success in bridge was in Womens' and Senior events.

I was in The Australian Womens' Team at a Bridge Olympiad as well as several World Championship events.

I've also represented Australia overseas in several Senior Bridge Championships.

In addition, I've played in Open, Womens and Senior Interstate Teams.

*When did you take up croquet? What triggered this?*

I started to learn to play croquet in 2004 when friend Mike Hughes suggested to a group of us that we needed to add croquet to our repertoire. You won't be able to play tennis and golf forever!

It turned out to be a very good suggestion.

*You have represented NSW at croquet and won many tournaments; can you list your achievements?*

I have won miscellaneous events at Silver and Gold level over the years.

I've been privileged to be included as a member of the State Team a few times.

My recent win in The Selectors' tournament is probably my best performance.

*What have been the most enjoyable times at croquet?*

When you are playing well. Win or lose doesn't matter so much.

*What advice would you give to less experienced croquet players?*

Play in the twilight sessions in summer. You might get some help from more experienced players here.

Play in club sessions.

Play in the club competitions.

Enter tournaments at other clubs.

It helps to have a mentor. Not always easy to find one.

## Tournaments

There has been a wealth of tournaments involving Cammeray players this month.

### NSW Selectors Tournament:

Barbara McDonald had a splendid win in this, winning all her games, and beating three players ranked well above her.

### Tempe Open

Rob Elliott won this, with Alan Walsh second

### Makara AC Handicap Singles

Peter Brown came third

### GC Interstate Shield

NSW came second in this, with Alison Sharpe in the NSW team

### Manly Seabreeze.

The Manly Seabreeze is one of the most pleasant tournament of the year, and several Cammeray members entered one or more of the competitions here.

**Graham Maynard** won Block 3, winning all his games.

**Chris and Joanne Brown** won the handicap doubles knockout. **Graham Maynard**, partnered with Ron Buist of Killara, reached the final.

**Sandra Colquhoun** reached the semi-finals of the Singles Handicap Knockout.

**Neil Hardie** was runner-up in Block 1

**Sandra Colquhoun** won the Mary Duckworth Trophy for the most hoops scored by a bronze player  
Graham Maynard, Sandra Colquhoun, Chris Brown and Joanne Brown all reduced their handicaps.

### New Member

We are pleased that Alison Sharpe has joined Cammeray. She is one of Australia's leading players, ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in Australia and 29<sup>th</sup> in the world. She is the second in the world among women players, and has won many tournaments, including the NSW Open.



## Bronze Invitation

The next Mosman Bronze Invitation is on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Play will be for 2.5 hours, beginning at 9.30am, with a morning tea break for 15 minutes about 10.30. Mosman members will take turns to provide a tea bun or two. Visiting players need to pay a \$5.00 fee.

If you are interested, please email Bronwyn McGrane on [bronwynmcgrane@gmail.com](mailto:bronwynmcgrane@gmail.com) by 4<sup>th</sup> October.