



Cammeray Croquet Club



April 2020

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

LAWNS

Much work has been done on our lawns recently. Mike Stokes the Council groundsman who looks after them, is an expert on grasses, and has done a wonderful job. Our lawns had acquired a range of different grasses over the years, which is not good for croquet, but Mike has been removing all the grasses except couch, so we now have a splendidly uniform lawn. The lawns have also been top-dressed and fertilised and are looking magnificent.



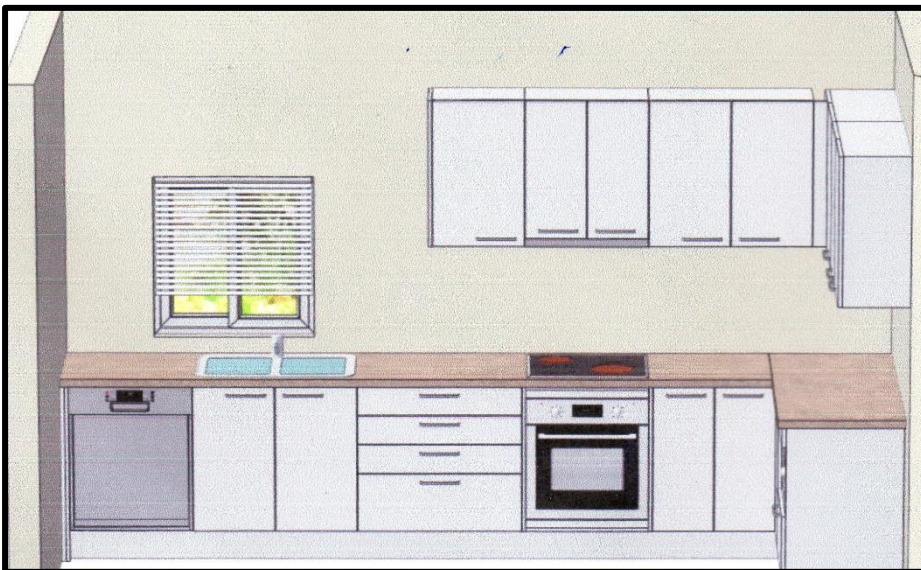
close up of the couch grass



general view of the lawns

KITCHEN

Plans for the refurbishment of the kitchen are well advanced. The new design is shown below:



The work is scheduled to be done from 15th to 21st May. The new kitchen will include an oven, a dishwasher, and a microwave. Bev Westwood has been co-ordinating this project.

Vale John Clayton



John joined our Club in 2016 and won the beginners tournament that year and later represented Cammeray as a member of the Bronze Pennants team. He was a regular Saturday afternoon player and always stayed on for the post croquet drinks, where his company and quiet wit was much appreciated. It was at one of these sessions that he learned about Sue Nicholas's volunteer work and the Fine Music radio station. He signed up himself and from then on spent 4 hours a week retrieving and arranging CD's for presenters to play on air. Our Club was also blessed by John's generosity with his time – mostly recently for the sterling job he did in assisting Bev and Marg with the Dixon catering and for his role as collector of mail from the Club's PO box as well as taking the minutes at committee meetings. Living across the road from the Club he often assisted with corporate hires.

John was born in South Australia in 1934. He spent his working life as a Civil Engineer, working on large projects including the Bangkok metro. It was in Bangkok that he first became acquainted with Croquet through an English engineer friend who decided to make his home in Thailand and had a private croquet lawn constructed. John made an annual pilgrimage to Thailand to play croquet with his friend. It was a great disappointment to him that he never managed to get a team from Cammeray to join him.

John loved to cook and entertain his close family which ran to many grandchildren and a few great grandchildren. Apart from croquet he played golf once a week and regularly lunched with his former engineering colleagues.

He died of a heart attack on March 21. We will miss him

(Warren Yates)

Award for Margaret O'Brien



Margaret O'Brien received an award during Seniors' Week for her voluntary work at the Crows Nest Centre. She has been working there for fifteen years, firstly as a receptionist, then as a driver for appointments, and recently doing assisted shopping. A belated congratulations to Margaret for her excellent work!

The Amazing Lily Gower



Extract from The History of Croquet by D M C Prichard:

“At the Budleigh Salterton tournament in 1898 there appeared a tall, slim, young girl of twenty-one with a fine head of golden hair. In her first tournament, without ever having played on a full-sized court or even seen first-class play, and having learned her tactics entirely from Arthur Lillie’s book, she created a sensation by beating C E Willis, the previous year’s champion in the final Lily Gower went on to win the Ladies’ Championship for the next three years, after which she turned her attention to the men. In 1901 she won the Open Gold Medal.”

Lily won the Open Gold Medal three times, upon which the authorities changed the rules and had separate Men’s Gold Medal and Women’s Gold Medal. However, an ambiguity in the rules meant that Lily was not prevented from entering the Men’s Gold Medal, which she proceeded to win. The committee then had to pass new rules which forbade women from entering the Men’s event.

Lily Gower married R C J Beaton, one of the leading croquet players of the day, and played at the highest level until 1948, and continued playing until her death aged 85 in 1959

Some More Websites

WilsonFletcherCroquet

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpBaKQxMq1seFtEKJsDR08w/featured>

A site set up by Ed Wilson and Robert Fletcher with videos of how to do a 4-ball break, how to do jump shots, and a video of Robert Fletcher’s astonishing triple peel done in 5 minutes and 18 seconds.

Duncan Hector’s site:

<https://www.youtube.com/profile?user=duncanhector>

This site includes Reg Bamford’s remarkable lecture on ‘the mental game’ which is well worth listening to. Reg – who won the recent world championship – has a wealth of advice on the mental preparation for games. One technique which we can use while lawns are closed is his ‘mental practice’ – lying on his bed going through each stroke of a game with great care.

The site also has videos of top-level games, advice on top-dressing lawns and setting hoops, and demonstrations of the swings used by the Egyptian golf croquet players.