



# Cammeray Croquet Club



NEWSLETTER

December 2015

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

## Club Christmas Party

As foreshadowed in several previous editions, the Club Christmas Party was held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November, and was very well supported.

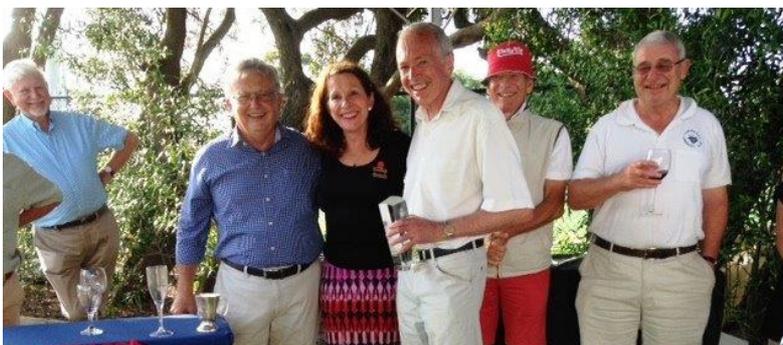
North Sydney Mayor, Jilly Gibson, came along to present trophies to the winners of the various Club Competitions – from the Beginners' Trophy through to the open Club Championship.



These have all been reported on before, but two additional awards warrant mention – the *Stephen Howes* trophy for the most improved player was awarded to **Sue Eldridge-Smith**, and the *Mila Kotala* award for a major contribution to the Club went to **Warren Yates**, whose work for the Club truly is prodigious.

The casual format of 'stand-up' drinks and finger-food, enabling everyone to mingle easily, was very favourably commented on. Indeed, your reporter did not spot a sour face all evening.

Yet again we owe enormous thanks for the organising abilities of **Jan Thomas** and **Marg O'Brien**, who are very keen to ensure we don't overlook the contributions of **Sue Eldridge-Smith**, **Kerry Phillips**, **Pam Cameron-Smith**, **Bev Westwood**, **Penny Garrett**, and **Steve Miles**. In another inspired move, Bev's twin granddaughters, Lauren and Rachel, served food to the assembled company, much to everyone's delight. And Graham Maynard was seen at his best dispensing drinks from the bar.



A final word of congratulation has to be saved for those responsible for installing a Bar Fridge in the equipment shed only a matter of days after its being approved by the Committee. Somebody certainly knows how to get things done!

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### Editorial

The rapid-fire 'ker-ching' of cash registers reminds us that Christmas is looming, and no doubt the heart should be singing at the thought of a little rest and recuperation over the traditional holiday period.



Sadly, the prospect for many of us is likely to be less croquet than usual, while we endeavour to meet the ferocious demands on our time from our nearest and dearest.

Never mind. Doubtless we shall survive. And with a little patience, one hopes we can even look forward to returning to the game with renewed vigour.

Until then, your editor wishes readers who may still seek inspiration in these pages a wonderful Christmas and a terrific New Year to follow.

As ever, comment on this issue, and/or contribution to the next, can be sent to ...  
Michael Strickland  
[stricko@ozemail.com.au](mailto:stricko@ozemail.com.au)

# Results

## Australian Open Singles



The ACA Australian Open AC Singles competition ran from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, at Cairnlea in Victoria.

Two Cammeray members, **Alan Walsh**, and **Mike Hughes**

[pictured in that order] were among the 24 who qualified to play.

A fuller report by the latter appears in the column to the right ...

## Trans-Tasman GC Trophy 2015

And the inaugural Trans-Tasman Golf Croquet challenge has just concluded in Nelson on the south island of New Zealand. Battle was joined on Monday morning, 30<sup>th</sup> November, and ended dramatically – 72 matches later – in the dying light of Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December,



**Back Row:** John Compton (NSW) (Manager), Fleur Brockway (WA) (Reserve), Chris McWhirter (WA), Alison Sharpe (NSW), Kevin Beard (Vic), Lester Hughes (Vic) (Reserve)

**Front Row:** John Van der Touw (Vic), Wendy Dickson (Vic), Peter Landrebe (NSW (C)), Anne Quinn (Vic) (V-C), and Rosie Landrebe (NSW)

Despite the presence of Cammeray members, **Peter** and **Rosie Landrebe**, in the Australian team, and despite the team bouncing back to win the second Test – as the light faded in the evening of the sixth day, it all came down to the last hoop of the last game of the last match of the final Test. [Phew!] And the Kiwis managed that hoop, to tie the Test, and thus square the series!! But a 'countback' gave them the Trophy by 37 matches to 35, and a total of 97 games to 87. Sooo close! Well done Bleck!

## Club Notices

It is a pleasure to report on two major improvements to the club and grounds which are currently in progress:

- The western edge of the tennis courts is even now being 'kerbed and guttered' to minimise the run-off which occurs in heavy rain.
- The interior of our clubhouse will be repainted next week, starting Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Please make allowances for what should be just few days' inconvenience.

Both these initiatives are being undertaken for us by North Sydney Council, to whom we remain most grateful.

## Good News; Bad News: A report on the 2015 Australian Open AC Singles Championships at Cairnlea (Vic) by Mike Hughes

There was a disappointing entry of only 24 players in this year's Australian Open. Practice (would you believe!) for the Trans-Tasman GC challenge probably led to 7 or 8 top players not being there ... but the others?

The good news was that World No.1 Robert Fletcher, was there – as unbackable favourite. The bad news (for him, anyway) was that his brother Greg (or Macgregor, more formally) beat him in the semi-final, and went on to win. (At least the Fletcher name remains on the trophy.) That also deposed Robert (one hopes only temporarily) from the No. 1 ranking.

Cammeray was represented by Alan Walsh and me. We were in fact the only Sydney players. The good news is that we each won an event ... the bad news? I won the Plate (for players not good enough to reach the knockout rounds of the top 16 players). So "winning" the Plate really meant coming 17<sup>th</sup> out of 24. (Alan won it last year, so we are keeping Cammeray in the limelight.) This year, Alan progressed to winning the 'Y' (which is the event for the players losing in the first knock-out round of the main event). So winning the Y really meant coming 9<sup>th</sup> overall!

Alan was unlucky in his first knockout round, drawing Callum Hyland, the flamboyant and rapidly improving young Tasmanian, who was highest ranked of the 9-16 players. And he lost a very hard-fought best-of-3 match. Overall, he had a good tournament, and went within one win of getting to a minus 1.5 Handicap (an index of 2250).

Alan also played the shot of the tournament. In his 'Y' match against Greg Wymark of Brisbane, Greg pegged out one of Alan's balls. After a lot of tactical manoeuvring, Greg was for Peg and Rover, and Alan was for 6. At this point, Greg pegged his own ball out, leaving his rover ball a yard or so in front of Rover (slight angle) with Alan in front of 6. Alan ran 6, but found himself wired from Greg's ball by Hoop 6. The only chance: jump Hoop 6 and hit Greg's ball about 15 yards away. The good news: the jump worked, and he hit Greg's ball! The BAD, BAD news was that in so doing, he rush-peeled it through Rover! And the even worse news was that, in now attempting to take off to his 1-back Hoop, he left a still ball, giving Greg an easy peg-out.

A very enjoyable tournament, and a great opportunity to see the country's best in action.