



# Cammeray Croquet Club



**November 2021**

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

## Club news

**Lawns Maintenance** is now scheduled to start on December 6 (provided heavy rain stays away). It is hoped to extend the Southern boundary of Lawn 2 and the Northern boundary of Lawn 1. The area to the North of Lawn 1 will be turfed at the club's expense with a broad reinforcing mesh installed in the area near the door. There will be a call to Club members to assist in this work to reduce the cost.

**The Christmas celebration** will be on Sunday 5 December from 4 pm to 7 pm. Guests welcome. RSVP to Mary Goldsack at [marygoldsack@optusnet.com.au](mailto:marygoldsack@optusnet.com.au) and send \$10 per person to the Cammeray account.

## Tournaments

CNSW tournaments have started in earnest, and the CNSW Open Singles was held this month. There were five Cammeray participants – Rob Elliott, Alan Walsh, Steve Miles, Rosie Landrebe and Peter Brown. Rob was beaten in the final by Callum Hyland, Rosie reached the semi-final (to be beaten by Rob) Alan won the Y, and Steve was runner-up in the plate. It was the first major tournament for our rapidly-improving Peter Brown, who acquitted himself creditably, beating the exp[er]ienced Tim Woolford Smith and only losing to Rob Elliott by 21-22.



**Rob Elliott**



**Rosie Landrebe**



**Alan Walsh**

The CNSW Silver Brooch is coming up shortly, with Cammeray members Sue Eldridge-Smith and David Surridge; and the CNSW Open Doubles at the end of the month.

## Bruno Jean Grasswill



**Bruno in his studio**

Our croquet club has members from many walks of life – we have opera singers, band members, journalists, international bridge players, authors and painters. One of the most versatile is Bruno Jean Grasswill, a noted painter and designer and husband of journalist (and club member) Helen Grasswill.

He is a keen amateur croquet player. He is famous, in his own small group of also dilettante players, for his uncanny good luck — like getting the ball through two hoops at once with a single stroke, on several occasions.

He has been a professional artist for many years, in various capacities, from commercial art, book design, art direction to fine art. Bruno does not do “pretty” pictures as such, as his work is often based on ideas.

For example, his “The Last Picnic” (2004) is an allegory about global warming and its consequences. Bruno does not repeat on his inventive styles and rarely paints “series”. In 2015, his Archibald portrait of Australian actor Michael Caton took the People’s Choice Award and the Packing Room Prize. He was only the third artist to win both prize since the beginning of the Archibald. The portrait has a neat trick: seen from one side Caton smiles but seen from the other angle he looks forlorn.



**La Bella Divina - portrait of Lyndey Milan  
(also a croquet player)**

Born in France, 1946, Bruno has been an artist since childhood, when he was taught about the refinements of perspective and logarithms by his father Jacques, before going to primary school.

Bruno achieved his Baccalaureate majoring in maths and technology. Then, in the early 1960s he fast-tracked a graphic arts course at the specialist *École Corvisart* in Paris. He designed his first commercial project in 1964. After a two-year sojourn teaching in Madagascar (1966-1968), Bruno worked as a graphic designer, photographer (using Hasselblads and Sinars) and conceptualiser for a lively small studio in Paris. He migrated to Australia in 1971 and became an Australian citizen in 1976, the same year he and Helen married. From 1972 to 1983 Bruno, virtually single-handedly, built a 70-tonne, 21-metre schooner. This was quite a full-time occupation, though during his “spare-time”, Bruno still worked freelance in photography, commercial art, three-dimensional displays, illustration, publishing, computerised art and art direction — to pay the bills.

In 1981, Bruno was one of three joint First Prize winners of the worldwide Sony Logo Competition that had more than 29,900 professional submissions.

Bruno's publishing work includes the production-design of books such as *The Complete Asian Cookbook* by Charmaine Solomon and *The Complete Wine Book* by Len Evans, when employed by the Hamlyn Group, where he was affectionately known as "the mad Frenchman". As a freelancer Bruno was also involved in the design, illustration, production and publication of popular scientific books which include *Australia — A Timeless Grandeur* by Helen Grasswill, *The Greening of Gondwana* by Mary E White, *The Wildlife of Gondwana* by Pat Rich, *Journey in Time* by George Chaloupka and many more. Busy...

From time to time, Bruno also held private fine art exhibitions, but mostly painted for commissions. For fun, he is also re-studying quantum mechanics which he first learnt in the 1960s. He has expertise in global warming sciences which he has studied informally since 1979. In the mid-1950s he studied weather for professional aircraft pilots and still keeps up-to-date on weather forecasting as much as possible and on the Chaos Theory.



***Impressionistic Coquelicots (pavots).***  
**This painting is created by letting layers of paint dry before painting the next layer.**



***The Engine Room, one of the thousands of electronic "etching", computer generated by Bruno***

Bruno and Helen sold the boat — a wishbone schooner that had a piano (the "fastest sailing one on Sydney Harbour") and a fireplace in the main lounge — more than six years ago, as Bruno could not climb up the near-20-metre masts any more... He also had a weak knee that saw him on crutches for about four months... The surgeon refused to operate as "he had more serious cases" to deal with. Bruno's knee is now much better anyway...

Bruno was one of the finalists in the tender for the refurbishment of the old Rozelle Power Station by the NSW state government (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzQMCVhQRpc>). His main aim was to turn this amazing set of buildings into an Arts and Sciences centre, with the most up-to-date information, using the latest techniques of communication, including virtual images and holograms. Bruno's skills in visualisation and model-building have been a great help for this project, called "LISA, Life Institute of Sciences and Arts™" The Renaissance of Thinking™. Unfortunately, the tender process is still in limbo due to lack of government commitment.

Between new projects, Bruno looks after a large home garden, which has many plant species, including some rare ones for the inner city, such as giant cycads — and a veggie patch. Generally lucky, Bruno still hopes for a few more "two hoops in one stroke on the ball" on the croquet lawns, and of course more Archibald wins in the future...

## Fleur Brockway

Many of you will remember Fleur Brockway, the very talented young croquet player from Western Australia who represented WA in both GC and AC. She played at Cammeray a few years ago, but she has not featured in croquet circles since, and you may wonder what happened to her. As well as being a fine croquet player, she is a splendid mezzo-soprano.

In 2017 she became a Wesfarmers Young Artist with WA Opera and received a scholarship through Melba Opera Trust in 2018, the same year she was awarded the Australian International Opera Awards Scholarship and won the German Australian Opera Grant. She studied at the Royal College of Music in London before relocating to Germany in 2019 where she is a member of the principal ensemble at the Hessisches Staatstheater, Wiesbaden. Last month she won the Dame Heather Begg Memorial Award. The sought-after \$25,000 grant, awarded through Melba Opera Trust, will provide funding for travel and tuition for the young singer.



Fleur Brockway

## Leo Tolstoi played croquet

The famous novelist Leo Tolstoi was one of the first people in Russia to play croquet. An excerpt of a biography says:

*The Tolstois had been amongst the first Russians to acquire an English croquet set when they became available in Moscow in the 1870s, and they became avid players on warm summer evenings when the air was cooler.*

*Rhozdestvesky (one of their tutors) took a particular delight in hitting Lucie Gachet's ball (another tutor) in the direction of the pond, telling her he was sending it to the frogs. (Tolstoi – A Russian Life; Rosamund Bartlett p.265)*

So if you want to be a great novelist, start by learning croquet!

## New Booking System

We are switching to a new booking system once we resume play following the lawn maintenance. It is a system called Croquet Bookings that was developed by Campbell Morrison in the UK and is now being used by dozens of Croquet clubs across the world including Cooks River and Ballina clubs in Australia. It is both more secure and easier to maintain than Google Sheets and just as easy to use. Members will get an email with a link to a short video showing how to use it sometime after December 5.