

# VICTOR HARBOR CROQUET CLUB

## NEWSLETTER September 2025



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### *From the President, Shirley Howlett*

The end of the year is in sight!

There has been a lot of action recently with the GC Gala Day, friendly against Reed Park and soon the competition against Hyde Park.

It was great to see friendly competition and enthusiastic play on the Gala Day. All the visitors enjoyed the day, praising the lawns and complimenting the lunch and afternoon tea provided by our club. Thank you to members who helped in lots of different ways.

Neil Franks and his helpers continue to improve our club buildings and surrounds. So too the gardeners. The overall appearance of the gardens is neater and as new plants develop it will only get better.

Planning is well under way for our Club Christmas lunch. Getting together at the Club is a fun way to celebrate all the good things about playing croquet

### MAINTENANCE NEWS

Neil Franks and his team of willing members, Janis Jenkins, Alastair Kelsey and Frank Markus spent Thursday morning 18/09/25 removing two tree stumps and applying some paint to the shelter shed frames on the western side of the courts.



A call will go out to members to help on another mornings in October and November to finish off painting to the internal surfaces of the three shelters and also that flag pole project. The Men's toilet building external and internal patch painting is also on the to do list.....

## Golf Croquet Report

The VHCC GC Gala day Our annual Gala Day was held on Monday 8th September. The weather was superb for spring and we had participants from many clubs, including Kadina, Murray Bridge, Tea Tree Gully, Brighton, Millswood and Hyde Park. I would sincerely like to thank our helpers on the day, especially Joan, Patricia, Mary, Janeen, Peter, Frank and Rhonda. Most of the games were extremely close and played in great spirit. Congratulations to winner Keryl Keil from Murray Bridge and Barry Wuttke Hyde Park runner up. Everyone enjoyed themselves and spoke very highly of our courts and our catering. We raised \$500 roughly on the day.



**Victor Harbor Croquet Club players vs Reade Park Croquet Club players social day** was held on Sunday 14/09/25. VHCC players were: Frank Markus, Ronnie McNab, Alastair Kelsey, Rhonda Westcott, Mary Bradley, Janeen Coleman, Merrilyn Franks, Neil Franks, Anne Fawkner, Patricia Marsland, Dennis Blowes, Mike Stratton and with Janet Nisted and Karin Edwards from VHCC playing for Reade Park.

18 games were played and at the end of play each club had won 9 games with Reade Park winning the day with 89 hoops to VHCC 86 hoops. A very enjoyable day with next year to include a break for lunch between games one and two with an 11.00am start of play.

**Hutt Road 5+ Singles event** was held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Sept & Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Sept with Frank Markus winning the event against 9 other players – winning 7 games to the second placed Hillary Thomas on 6 games won (9 games played). Event managed by Tea Tree Gully Croquet Club, thanks to Geoff Miller, Geoff Crook and Bev.



## Future Golf Croquet events

**The Southern Cross Cup:** Victor Harbor Croquet Club players vs Hyde Park Croquet Club is to be held on Friday 17/10/25. VHCC players listed are: Frank Markus, Ronnie McNab, Mary Bradley, Brenda Brown, Anne Fawkner, Janeen Coleman, Philip McQueen, Peter Willis, Desley Watson-Raston, Kate Logan, Dennis Blowes, Patricia Marsland. 3 more players are required as reserves.

The matches will follow the format of Pennant games where 12 players per club (6 doubles groups), will each play three 45-minute games. Tea and coffee will be included with normal visitor green fees applying and players providing their own lunch. The bar will be open after play. The start time is arrival at the club rooms at 10.30am for a 11.00am start of play – lunch break between games 1 and 2.

VHCC players wishing to enter as a reserve should make it known to Frank Markus as soon as possible.

5+ Pennants will be held at Hutt Road Adelaide Croquet courts on Saturday 11/01/25, Saturday 18/10/26, and the final round Saturday 15/11/25. Victor Harbor is currently in 4<sup>th</sup> position in a field of 8 clubs (14 points to 17 points)

## Association Croquet Report

Quiet on the home front with just club games at the moment

On the horizon, Bridie is competing in the Croquet SA Division 4 tournament soon, the Tumby Bay week is approaching with Mark and Jackie and Bridie and Steve competing.

In November the Croquet SA alternate strokes event is due to take place, this is where players with a high handicap are usually paired with a lower handicap player which can really improve the game for the higher handicap participant.

The club singles handicap competition will be scheduled soon.

**Club Mallets-** The use of club mallets are for the use of new learners, visitors and those club members who have not yet bought a mallet. One of the considerations is maintenance. Some of the mallets are used each session and are showing wear and tear. There will be some mallets reserved for learners and visitors and are not for general use. There will also be some mallets available for purchase. Depending on the ease of use for you personally, they could need some alteration such as longer handles.

And there will be some mallets for use by club members, who do not yet have a mallet, for a contribution of \$1 per session, payable into the labeled container, set beside the Green Fees container on the desk. These mallets will be kept in shed 1.

If you are interested in purchasing a club mallet, catch up with Kate Logan who will show you the selection and talk about customizing it for your use.

## SA Masters Games



Victor Harbor Council has won the rights to hold the SA Masters Games from April 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> 2026. Croquet is a Masters' sport and the Club has put up its hand to run matches on all four days. It is likely that the format will be similar to Pennant matches with two days of Association Croquet and two days of Golf Croquet. Stephen Templeton will be the director of the AC competition and Frank Markus will be director of the GC competition. It is incumbent on the Club to run these competitions as the Clubrooms and courts are owned by the Victor Harbor Council and the Club must contribute positively to the SA Masters Games success. It is an opportunity to promote the Victor Harbor Croquet Club to local, intrastate and interstate players – and a fund raising opportunity. It does entail additional work for members to manage these events and volunteers are encouraged to come forward as soon as possible to form a team.

## Treasurers Message:

Anyone with any ideas and plans to run a fund raising event please put your suggestion in the box to let the committee know.

Thank you to those who have paid their membership fees on time. You will have noted that the fees are for 4 months for VHCC and 3 months for Croquet SA, this will bring us into line with the Croquet Australia accounting period. Another invoice covering the year 1st January – 31st December 2026 will be issued in December. A lot of administrative duties need to take place once the fees have been paid so your early attention to this has been appreciated.

I look forward to my term as Treasurer and I know that I can count on the membership for your support. Happy croqueting, Janeen

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**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

Alastair Kesley, Janet Nisted, Karin Edwards,  
Denise Gillings & Robert McCreath