

VICTOR HARBOR CROQUET CLUB

NEWSLETTER August 2026



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From the President, Shirley Howlett

Another AGM is done and dusted! Many thanks to those who attended, or sent an apology. Even more thanks to the members who volunteered to join various committees. Special appreciation to Mary Bradley who agreed to join the Management Committee. In the Club meeting which followed the AGM Joan Thompson spoke about the need for a personalised induction process for all new members. The Management Committee will work with Joan to finalise a process for the club.

We also voted to pay an extra \$20 in our annual subscription to cover the cost of getting the toilets cleaned weekly by a contractor. The minutes have been emailed to members for your perusal. Thank you to the soup makers. The soups and fresh rolls went down a treat!

Also, on the club front, Mark and Jackie Goldsmith have instigated through U3A a come and learn Aussie croquet course. Aussie games are shorter than AC and about the same length as a GC game. The tactics are different but the skills are the same. Initially these sessions were scheduled for 4 weeks immediately after club coaching on Friday mornings but at the request of the participants one more week will be conducted. Jackie and Mark have been assisted by Kate, Steve and Shirley in teaching the basics of croquet i.e grip, stalk, stance and swing, plus the orientation around the court. It is anticipated that Aussie games will be able to be played on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. This is a great chance to introduce new members to the club. With new members we get new enthusiasm and new ideas. Any current members wishing to learn Aussie should speak to Mark or Jackie about joining in the fun!

Building maintenance report

We are awaiting warmer weather before coating the bare timber shade structures on the western side of courts two and three. Then the maintenance team will fix new shade clothe with battens over the structure to secure it against the heavy winds of Victor Harbor. The Men's toilet building external and internal patch repairs and painting, are on the to do list also when the weather improves.

Golf Croquet Report

A VHCC 5+ Pennants team continues to compete in this tough category with a loss to Norwood on the 8th August - the team of Kenny Inglis, Janeen Coleman, Neil Franks & Frank Markus losing 2 games to 4.

The next match is vs North Adelaide on 29/09/26 with Wendy Wang taking over for Frank Markus who will be away overseas from 02/09/26 until late in the night 29/09/26.

Frank Markus GC Coordinator

Association Croquet Report

Well, here we are in the final throes of winter. It's at this time of the year that the AC group organise their club competitions. These are:

The Welch/Rose Handicap Doubles event, where the players with a high handicap are paired with a low handicap partner. The pairings then work towards a middle region till all pairings are fixed. The handicaps are calculated and the number of bisques (i.e. extra turns) are allocated. Only the player with the highest handicap can use the bisques.

The event is named after two past club members Susan Welch and Ruth Rose, who left a small sum to be used for a prize for the winner. There are also the Singles handicap event and the Divisional competitions. Good luck to all players.

Steve Templeton: AC Coordinator

Lawn Court Report

As some of you may have noticed the lawns are a bit greener. Simon has worked his sorcery and with some wonderful nutrients the grass has responded. This really helps for a good playing surface. For those who play at other clubs you will notice the difference. Later this year, probably in November, there will be the annual major work that all lawns need. This year the courts will be scarified, hollow cored and top dressed. This is when the couch grass will respond well and grow quickly. We get contractors in to do the specialised work but there will be a call to assist with other chores around this time. Enjoy your games.

Steve Templeton: Lawn manager

Players taking Shelter around the Club Grounds



From Right to left, Malcolm Feder, Peter Keam, Patricia Marsland, Merilyn Franks, Rosie Douglas, Trevor Tee & Ian Williams.



Not sure of the player on the left – sitting next to him is Janeen Coleman, Jill Williams, Mary Bradley.



I think it's Neil Cheshire making his way into the shelter on Court Three.

Croquet Clubs from around the World (well Australia)



Southport Croquet Club lawns in the shadows of the Gold Coast high rise buildings.



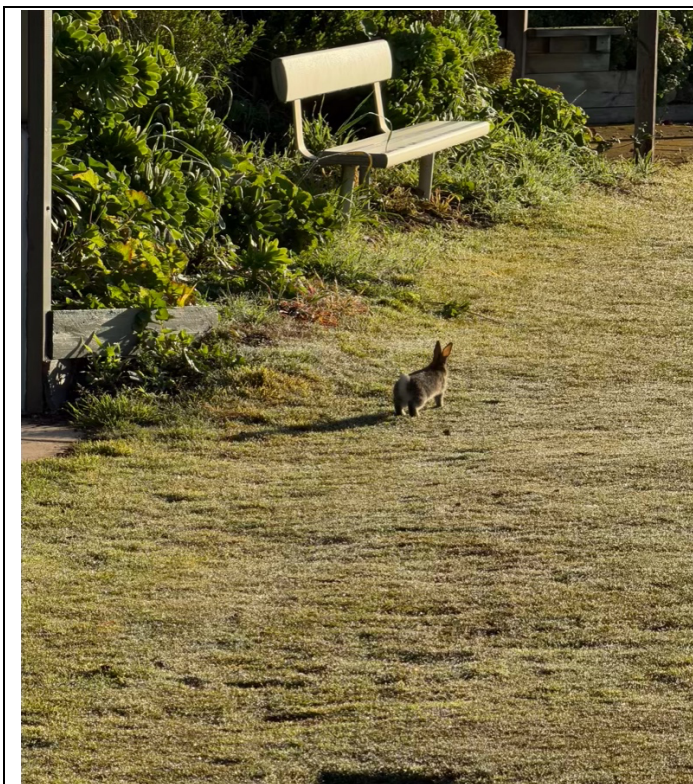
Southport Croquet Clubhouse



Brighton Croquet Club lawns displaying the browner lawns (dormant grass) than VHCC.



Brighton Croquet Clubhouse



Is this the Club's new mascot? Peter or Bugs the Rabbit??



It can stay, as long as it likes - only if it eats the weeds around the courts – and no burrowing!!

Calendar of upcoming events

1. U3A group learning Aussie Croquet from Friday July 31st for 6 weeks (subject to numbers/interest) after regular Coaching 10.00am to midday.
2. VHCC Golf Croquet Gala day October 16th held at Victor Harbor
3. VHCC Xmas lunch at the Crown Hotel Thursday 17th December 12.00 midday.

ASSOCIATION CROQUET

AUG 22- 23 President's Trophy

AUG 30 Port Pirie Gala Day Entries close August 22. Contact S McBride.

skmcbride55@gmail.com; or text 0427 259 750

SEPT 13 - 14 Div 3 Singles

SEPT 20 Development Squad

SEPT 22 - 24 Div 4 Singles

SEPT 26 Weekend Pennants

GOLF CROQUET

AUG 29 - 31 Open Doubles

SEPT 8 & 15 Spring Singles 5+

SEPT 10 & 17 Spring Singles 9+

SEPT 19 (Saturday) Weekend Pennants (5+ VHCC vs North Adelaide at 11.30am)

SEPT 21 Mt Barker Gala Day

SEPT 25 Development Squad

SEPT 27 (Sunday) Weekend Pennants (5+ VHCC vs Brighton at 2.30pm)

SEPT 30 Women's Encouragement Group

Other Stuff

Golf Croquet play times Monday, Wednesday, Saturday first game of four starts at 9.00am (arrive by 8.45am to play in the first game) – AC play times - Monday, Wednesday, Saturday play starts at 1.15pm (arrive by 1.00pm) – weather permitting.

A reminder to members to **walk around the courts before and after your games**. This avoids holding up play on Courts (if walking in front of players about to hit off) and also reduces the wear on the lawn surface.

Members should wear a name badge during games. These are available from Tonkins Sports Store on Ocean Street in Victor Harbor at minimal cost.

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Nankivell Conveyancing, Ouwens Casserly Real Estate,
TIMCO Mitre 10 Port Elliot, Café Primo

VHCC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE and OFFICIAL POSITIONS 2025-26		
PUBLIC OFFICER	Russell Parkes	
PRESIDENT	Shirley Howlett	
VICE PRESIDENT	Neil Franks	
TREASURER	Mark Goldsmith	
SECRETARY	Helen McQueen	
A.C. CO-ORDINATOR	Steve Templeton	
G.C. CO-ORDINATOR	Frank Markus	
COMMITTEE Member	Mary Bradley	
COMMITTEE Member	Jackie Goldsmith	
COMMITTEE Member	Kate Logan	
CROQUET SA Delegate	Bernie Pfitzner	
ASSOCIATION CROQUET		
REFEREES/UMPIRES	Mark Goldsmith, Shirley Howlett, Brenda Brown	
COACHES	Shirley Howlett	Mark Goldsmith
HANDICAPPER	Mark Goldsmith	
HANDICAP COMMITTEE	AC Handicapper - M. Goldsmith	+AC Co-ord & one other
MATCH COMMITTEE	AC Co-ord (chair)	+Coach: Shirley Howlett & one other
AC TOURNAMENT MANAGER	Shirley Howlett	Assistant: Bridie O'Reilly
GOLF CROQUET		
REFEREES/UMPIRES	Bernie Pfitzner/Frank Markus/Kate Logan	
COACHES	Kate Logan B. Pfitzner S. Howlett	F. Markus, J. Coleman, D. Coleman,
HANDICAPPER	Bernie Pfitzner	
HANDICAP COMMITTEE	GC Handicapper B. Pfitzner (Chair)	+ GC Co-ord & one other
MATCH COMMITTEE	GC Co-ord. (Chair)	+Coach. Kate Logan & one other
GC TOURNAMENT MANAGER	Kate Logan	
COMMITTEES		
FINANCE	Chair: Treasurer Mark Goldsmith	H. McQueen, F. Markus, N. Franks
FUNDRAISING.	Chair. Bernie Pfitzner, R. Wescott J. Thompson M. Goldsmith	
FACILITIES & MTCE Committee	Neil Franks, Frank Markus and Steve Templeton, Patricia Marsland	
OTHER POSITIONS		
WEBSITE	Janis Jenkins, Bernie Pfitzner	
NEWSLETTER	F Markus, President & Secretary	
HISTORIAN	Vacant	
LAWN MAINTENANCE GREEN KEEPER: Contractor LINE MARKING HOOP MOVEMENT SURROUNDS: Mowing	Bridie O'Reilly & Steve Templeton Simon Kluske Steve Templeton Dennis Blowes Kate Logan Frank Markus Dennis Blowes Frank Markus	Committee rep
GRANTS	Jackie Goldsmith & Janis Jenkins	Bernie Pfitzner
MEMBER PROTECTION	Bernie Pfitzner	
PUBLICITY	Facebook: Jackie Goldsmith	
SPONSORSHIP & SIGNAGE	Bernie Pfitzner	
FIRST AID CERT	S. Howlett, R. Westcott, C. Horner, N. Cheshire, P. Willis, A-M. Murphy, E. Morgan	
BAR MANAGER RSA- Qualified. Responsible Persons	Don Driver	Assistant. Steve Templeton
	D. Driver, R. Westcott, J. Coleman, S. Templeton, B. O'Reilly, M. Goldsmith	
	All approved current committee members.	
STAR CLUB: Officer/rep	Bernie Pfitzner	
CHILD SAFE OFFICER	Bernie Pfitzner	
WORKING WITH CHILDREN	Bernie Pfitzner, Kate Logan, S. Howlett, J. Coleman, F. Markus, R. Westcott	
GOOD SPORTS: Contact	Helen McQueen	
RULE BOOKS: Sales	GC Bernie Pfitzner	AC Shirley Howlett
CLUB CAPS & HATS: Sales	Bernie Pfitzner	
SOFT DRINKS: Stock/Sales	Steve Templeton	
KITCHEN MANAGER	Joan Thompson	Purchase supplies: TBC

Note: The President is ex officio at all meetings