



**HORSHAM CROQUET CLUB**  
**100 YEARS OF HISTORY**





## The Horsham Croquet Club

### **is built on Crown Land managed by The Horsham Rural City Council**

A meeting held in the Town Hall on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 1923 @ 4 pm was chaired by Mrs Anderson (Mayoress). Many people attended and after a lengthy discussion they decided to form a Croquet Club if a suitable site could be found.

The sites discussed were-

1. Presbyterian church grounds fronting Robert Av.
2. May Park
3. A block fronting May Park
4. The road between Gardens and Recreation Reserve

Subscriptions £2.2/- this year and £1.1/- ensuing years

Meetings and social events were held for some time at different locations- Masonic Hall, Town Hall, Mechanics Hall, Soldier's Memorial Hall.

The first general meeting for the proposed club met on May 8<sup>th</sup> 1923 with fifteen people attending

President-Mrs D. Anderson Vice President- Mesdames Wilmoth and H Allen

Secretary-Mrs Appleton

Hon. Treasurer-Miss Cullen

Mrs Tootell (sec. Horsham Tennis Club) outlined a scheme where the Croquet and Tennis Clubs could work together and place lawn courts between Recreational Reserve and Gardens if available

The Presbyterian grounds were decided on being the most suitable. The Sec was asked to write to the Board of Management for permission to lease land for 20 years (this was later refused)

At the next meeting discussion took place as to a suitable site near the Racecourse or the Gardens and finally decided to visit both.

In August a motion was put forward the Lawns be placed at the Racecourse-LOST. Another motion at the Gardens-WON-carried

Mr Strange from Daylesford was asked for instructions and possible cost for laying 2 lawns 3 chain x 2 chain. (2 courts 28x35 yds)

A letter was received in September saying it was too late to start this year needs to begin in Autumn next year.

Committees were formed for raising money, American Teas, Card parties, Stalls, and donations were received from businesses and people who saw the need for a Croquet Club in Horsham.

February's Meeting 1924 £180 had been accumulated ready for the commencement of work in March with Mr Strange.

In May 1924 discussions were held in joining the Tennis Club to build Club Rooms. A suggestion put forward to move the old pavilion on the Recreation Reserve as a foundation- this idea was dropped as felt it was better to put the money towards a NEW building. A £90 loan from the Bank (Allen, Miller and Langlands guarantors)

The official opening day of the Greens and Club rooms was on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 1924 combined with the opening season of the Tennis Club.



Later that year a Blind was added on the verandah where Afternoon tea was held also giving protection from the sun

Association Croquet was played Thursday and Saturday with a limit of 40 minutes.

In 1925 Natimuk and Jeparit Clubs were invited to come and play, a discussion was held and rules made regarding the entertainment of the visiting teams. It was decided to charge visiting friends of individual members 6 pence for a game of 40 mins. or 2/6 for the 1<sup>st</sup> week then 1/-each additional week.

First Annual Meeting held on Monday afternoon 1926 chaired by Mrs Anderson. Financial report showed a healthy balance of £38/1/9, 40 members and visits from Warracknabeal, Natimuk and Dimboola. Horsham Council had agreed to grant additional ground to the north for new court at the cost of £87.

In 1927 an AGM was held in the Town Hall Mrs J H Wilmoth presided. (Mrs Barnes resigned earlier Mrs Wilmoth elected new President) President report-34 members, cost of building 2 shelter sheds £10/14/6, new lawn £85/1/9, after a heavy expenditure year leaving a credit of £24/19/1. Membership £2/2/-Season's opening day Sat.Oct.8 by the Mayoress Mrs Barnett.

Wimmera Croquet Association was formed in 1930, the foundation member clubs were Horsham, Natimuk, Dimboola, Murtoa, Warracknabeal, Nhill and Minyip.

1933- 10 years celebrations were poorly attended mainly due to a very hot day.

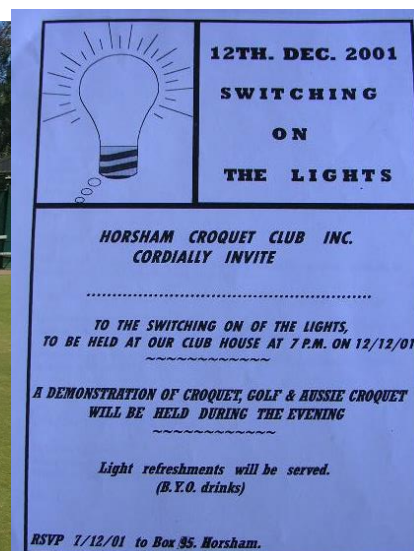


Middle of club rooms filled in in  
1934

1934-The closing in of the Croquet & Lawn Club Rooms and connection of Gas was a huge help with the weather and the serving of afternoon tea. An old water pipe was replaced with the Council paying ½ costs. 2 more shelter sheds were built Mr Edmonds & Mr Francis, the timber donated by Messrs. Pryor & Sutherland (cost being minimal to the Club). In 1939 the club rooms were lined.

1942 we only had 25 members due to people leaving the town and World War 2, our social and financial activities became restricted but soon recovered.

1948 proposal of new lawns was discussed and permission given from the council that our croquet club could play on a Sunday providing it was the same time as the Tennis Club from 2pm-6pm and no competition to be played.



1976- Our current club rooms were built under the Gough Whitlam's RED scheme in 1975. The Croquet club paid \$5,821, the tennis club paid \$11,642, Council paid \$3,000 and \$20,000 came from a federal government grant. Horsham Croquet Club ran bingo every Monday night for twelve and a half years to raise money to improve our facilities. The new club rooms were opened officially on January 24<sup>th</sup> 1976. The club rooms were shared with the Horsham Lawn Tennis Club (2/3 for Tennis Club, 1/3 for croquet. Kitchen and Toilets were shared) In 1993 an extra 5 meters was added onto the western end of the clubrooms for the Tennis Club, so the Croquet & Tennis Clubs only share the toilets giving each club 50 % of the building. We have spent \$28,084 extending the club house, \$13,014 replacing the lawns, \$11,228 on erecting sheds, \$9,483 installing lighting, \$6,833 on kitchen repairs, plus asphaltting the car park, building a fence and a lot of money trying to laser level our lawns. The tennis club and Croquet clubs contributed \$10,000 towards the pumping station for our watering system.

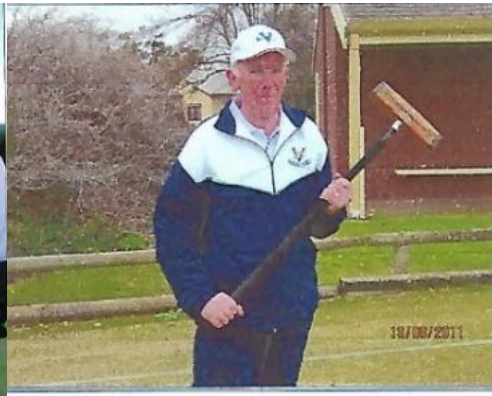
Since 2000, Horsham Croquet Club has become predominately a golf croquet club, we have approx. forty-five members and field four pennant teams. We play socially on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. In summer we play under lights on Tuesday and enjoy a light meal before play. In 2013 we celebrated our 90th birthday with a luncheon at our club. Lots of past players returned for the occasion. We have four greens which we are in the process of renovating. Lasering has been done on two greens with the other two being done next year. We have a 'Come and Try' day each year to try to attract new members. These have been very successful in recent years. The Association Regionals have been held at our club in 2011. Horsham Croquet Club has been very successful in recent years, with lots of members volunteering to take on tasks around the greens and clubhouse.

We have 4 A grade croquet courts with lights, our uniforms are either or, white and bottle green. Each year we hold an Annual Tournament which receives entries from many states. Our club is recognised as a Regional Croquet Centre of Victoria.

## H.C.C. Members Success -



Ian Rees 2006 "World Golf Croquet Team" in New Zealand



Neville Pope 2011 "Victorian Team" in Brisbane



Live-in caretakers at "Cairnlea" (VCA)  
Frank and Iris Williams, leading club  
members of the Horsham Croquet Club in  
western Victoria, have moved into the  
modern one-bedroom caretaker flat  
upstairs in the clubhouse.

Wimmera Croquet Association Championships 2009/2010



### Mascot

Knitted and donated  
by Shirley Boschen

## Introduction of Croquet to Australia -

The V.C.A. was not the first State association. That honour goes to Tasmania, who had already formed a controlling body in 1908. Victoria in 1914, South Australia formed an association in 1916, New South Wales in 1918, Queensland in 1922 and Western Australia in 1928.



In the early days of croquet, dressing was never uniform. Photographs appearing in the "Town and Country Journal" of 1870 show very fashionably dressed players. The photograph of the Lilydale Croquet Club taken in 1899 shows the ladies in long gowns, mostly black, with tiny waists, high necks, and leg-o'-mutton sleeves. Some are wearing hats complete with flowers or feathers, some are in straw boaters. The men have dark suits with stiff collars and waistcoats complete with watch and chain. Their hats are mainly hard bowlers

But it was not until 1948 that the V.C.A. made a rule that all pennant teams must wear white. It was the fact that synthetic materials had come onto the market at the conclusion of World War II that made such a regulation possible. The regulation uniform included for women a white frock four inches below the knee, with sleeves just above the elbow, worn with a white hat; and for men long white trousers, white shirt worn with a tie, and a white hat. This applied to all pennant and association events. In 1968 the four inch was rescinded and "below the knee" substituted. In 1973 slacks were permitted for women players except for pennant, provided that the jackets were hip length. Rain wear must be white. Flat soled shoes or boots in white or brown have always been regulation, and players are requested not to wear jewellery. Very few clubs own the title to their property, and those that do invariably find the club expensive to run, necessitating high subscriptions and a continual drive for additional funds.



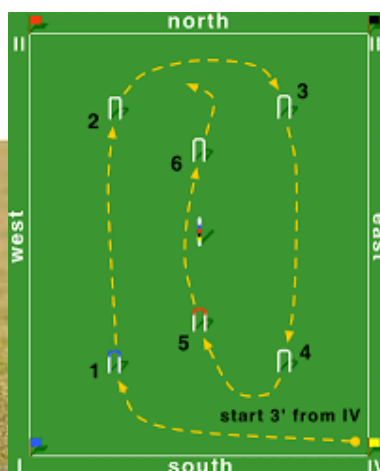
**Croquet Balls**



**Mallets**



**Hoop**

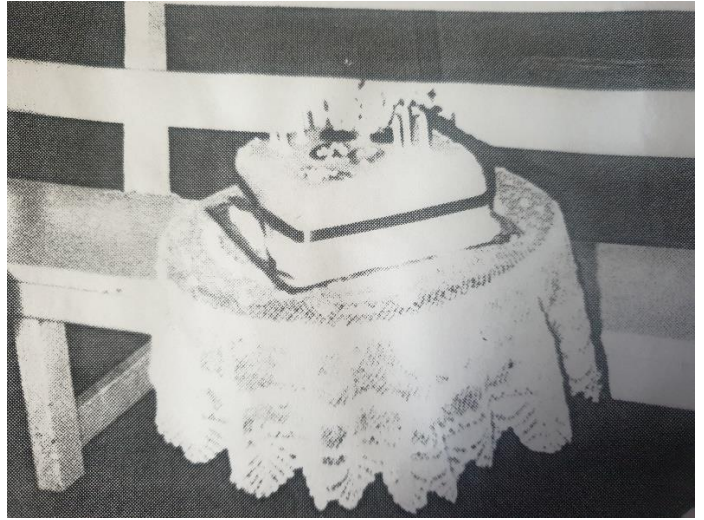


**Court**

**Horsham Croquet Club Birthdays-**



50<sup>th</sup> Birthday



60<sup>th</sup> Birthday



70<sup>th</sup> Birthday

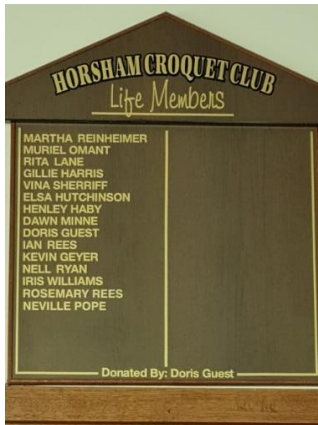


Horsham 80th Birthday 2003



90<sup>th</sup> Birthday





**LIFE MEMBERS**

Martha Reinheimer  
(a foundation member)  
1960 Life Member



**Muriel Omant**



L/R Rita Lane, Vina Sherriff  
E. Hutchinson, P. Creek Gillie Harris



Vina Sherriff  
Life Member



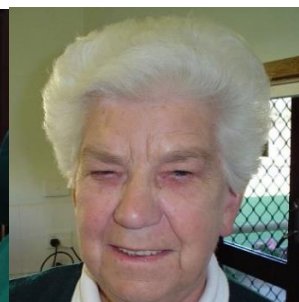
Elsa Hutchinson  
Life Member



1980 HENLEY HABY  
made a Life Member  
L-R -Pres. Vi Hanks Sec.  
Evelyn McLean, Henley  
Haby, Mrs. Phillips



Dawn Minne  
Life Member



Doris Guest  
Life Member



Ian Rees  
Life Member



Kevin Geyer  
Life Member



Nell Ryan  
Life Member



Neville Pope



Rosemary Rees

## New Improvements -



Levelling the Croquet Courts approx..1992



New Fence 2016



New Kitchen 2018



New Groomer



Laptop Computer and Printer 2020

## Memorable days-



2010 Winners Wimmera v Ballarat Challenge



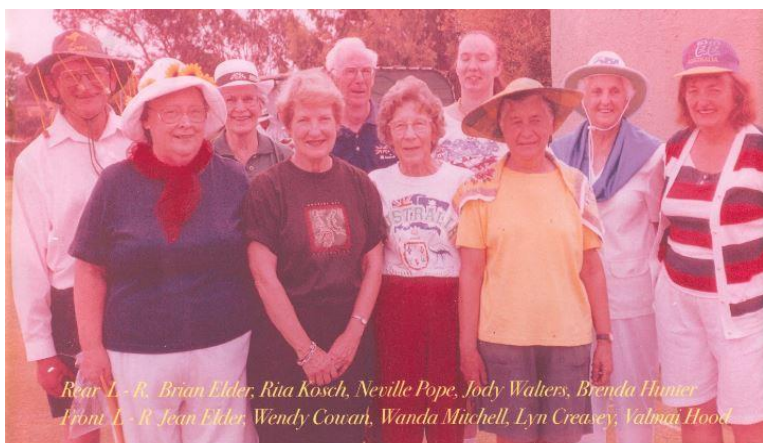
**Ready to Roll**-Lyn Creasey (WCA pres)  
Glenda Hayden (HCC pres) David Berry  
(Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly)



Ella Lister at Boort 1992



Mowing the courts



Australia Day approx.2000



Bus trip to Cairnlea 2017 World Croquet  
Championships

Barry Sherwell driving



Rachael's Wish

April 28, 2016 · 🌐

A big thank you to the Horsham Croquet Club for their fundraising efforts on Saturday. The club raised \$2102 for the Wimmera Cancer Centre. Their president Donna Frost said the club was happy to help the cause and presented the donation to Wimmera Cancer Centre Fundraising Sub-Committee Member Penelope Manserra on the day. THANK YOU!

### Mother's Day Flowers

Members of HCC donate their time, money raised for the Cancer Centre

Lyn & Yvonne



Xmas 2017 @ Glen Logan



Kalimna Social Day 2018



2020

Australia Day-



2021

21/3/2020 HCC was closed due to Covid-19 including all sport, most shops & businesses, no visiting, in isolation and Compulsory wearing of Masks outside your home periodically and mandatory Vaccinations.



Nov.2021 Celebration of Covid 19 Mask Free Day outside



**PEDAL POWER:**  
Keen croquet players Marg Pope, left, and June Werner regularly jump on their bikes and head to Horsham Croquet Club to play. The pair has been riding to the club for a few years and is back enjoying the sport after the latest easing of restrictions. Both make the most of cycling opportunities to increase their levels of exercise. Picture: PAUL CARRACHER

Lawn Tennis Regionals played on our courts 2022

# HORSHAM CROQUET CLUB 2009



2009 LIFE MEMBERS

**Back Row**

Beryl Greig, Enid King, Morva Gilsenan (Secretary), Lorraine O'Loughlin, Jan Cameron, John Pipkorn, Frank Williams, Neville Pope (President), Ray Lane, Bernice Lane, Barry Dunn, Les Baker, Frank Creasey, Jenny Hardingham, Valerie Hanna.

**Middle Row**

Patricia Murrett, June Revere, Rae Hill, Jenny Pipkorn, Marjorie Wiedermann, Donna Frost, Alan Baird, Margaret Pope, Lois Ball, Judy Mc Donald, Vonda Hamilton, Elaine Nicholls, Margaret Baker, Lyn Smith, Marilyn Baird.

**Front Row**

Rosemary Rees, Brenda Hunter, Doris Guest (Life Member) Iris Williams (Life Member), Ian Rees (Life Member & Treasurer), Nell Ryan (Life Member), Kevin Geyer (Life Member) Dawn Minnie (Life Member) Barbara Ross, Lyn Creasey, Yvonne Dunn, Eiril Lind, Therese Wright, Valmai Hood.

**Special Birthdays-**

E  
R  
I  
L



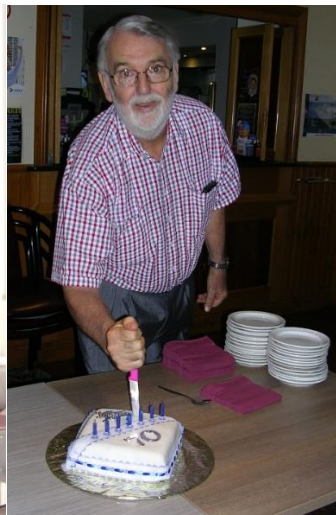
M  
A  
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G  
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Neville



Yvonne



Ian



Lois



Rae