



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

**Australian Croquet Association**

A2004

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# ACA 2022 Australian Croquet Association Annual Report

## Introduction

The Australian Croquet Association (ACA) became incorporated in the ACT on Monday 10 February, 1992 – Incorporation Number is AO2004. ACA also trades as Croquet Australia and is recognised by Sport Australia (SA) as a National Sporting Organisation (NSO). The organisation's main objective is to operate as the peak body for the administration of all Mallet Sports in Australia. Until early 2015, ACA had a Council which consisted of twelve delegates – two from each State Association – and an Executive responsible for the day-to-day management. On Monday 23 March 2015, the Members adopted a new constitution based on the Sport Australia's Constitution Template; Mandatory Sports and Governance Principles – which was registered with the ACT Office of Regulatory Services. Approval was received on Thursday 9 April, 2015 and ACA moved from an Executive and Council to a Board Structure. Members.

There are six voting Members:

- Croquet New South Wales Incorporated (includes ACT)
- Croquet Association Queensland Incorporated
- South Australian Croquet Association Incorporated
- Tasmanian Croquet Association Incorporated
- The Victorian Croquet Association Incorporated
- The Western Australian Croquet Association Incorporated Affiliated Members

## Affiliated Members

STATE	2020			2021			2022		
	Clubs	Adult	Under 21	Clubs	Adult	Under 21	Clubs	Adult	Under 21
NSW	67	2789	8	60	2649	5	64	2893	7
VIC	88	2794	25	80	2517	12	81	2667	9
QLD	41	1450	11	41	1620	19	42	1639	12
SA	35	952	11	32	906	8	32	917	3
WA	22	874	8	23	1092	18	23	963	3
TAS	11	453	14	10	471	10	10	472	8
Sub Total		9312	77		9255	72		9551	42
Total	255	9389		246	9327		252	9593	

### Meetings

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at Tempe (NSW) on the 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

### World Bodies

ACA is a full member of the World Croquet Federation and a member of the World Gateball Union.

### Financial year

ACA's financial year is from 1 January to 31 December.

### Banking

The ACA has one operating account.

### Investments

At the end of the year ACA had two investment portfolios – BT Financial Group and MLC Share fund.

### Goods and Services Tax

ACA is registered for GST.

## **2022 Board**

Chair – Jim Nicholls

Deputy Chair – Max Kewish

Treasurer – Kah Yang Loke

Board Member – Kerri-Ann Organ

Board Member – Pat Habner

Board Member – Barbara Northcott

Board Member – Bob Berry (18/5 – 18/6)

## **Board Appointed Positions**

Secretary – Jim Clement

Executive Officer – Rob Murray

Academy General Manager – Greg Bury

Finance Officer – Angeline Tan (1/5/21 – 31/5/22)

## **Appointed Officers**

### **Association Croquet**

High Performance Manager – Peter Landrebe

National Co-Ordinator Refereeing – Mike Cohn

National Co-ordinator Coaching – Greg Bury

### **Golf Croquet**

High Performance Manager – Martin Clarke

National Co-Ordinator Refereeing – Jim Clement

National Co-ordinator Coaching – Greg Bury

### **Gateball**

National Co-ordinator Gateball – Ros Crowe

National Co-Ordinator Refereeing – Bruce McAlister

High Performance Manager – Phillip Brown

### **Ricochet**

National Co-ordinator Ricochet – Ray Chapman

### **Under 21 Croquet**

National Co-ordinator – Jacky McDonald

### **Handicapping**

National Handicapper – Gareth Denyer

### **Archivist**

Martin Clarke

### **Magazine Editor**

Greg Bury

### **Australian Representation - WCF**

WCF AC Laws Committee – Liz Fleming

WCF GC Rules Committee – John van der Touw

## **Committees**

### **Events**

Chair - Peter Freer

Peter Tracey

Gary Phipps

Peter Landrebe

### **Tournament**

AC – Trevor Bassett

GC - Dianne Leahy

### **AC Selection**

Ian Dumergue

Simon Hockey

Peter Landrebe

### **GC Selection**

Chair – Chris McWhirter

John Arney

Martin Clarke

Peter Landrebe

## Executive Reports

### CHAIR

In the first quarter of 2022, the main issue continued to be Covid and how to get events back up and running. Covid has continued to impact some of our events throughout the year, however, it is encouraging to see events being well attended despite the longer-lasting impacts of Covid on travel and accommodation.

Events of Covid over the last couple of years have resulted in people re-evaluating what's important to them, this is impacting not only sports but all areas of life. The post- Covid era is going to be a challenge for sport in general. We have already seen the impact on other sports as they have readjusted to allow participants to play shorter-form games or adjusted games.

In early March the Board decided to employ Greg Bury on a full-time basis as the General Manager of the Australian Croquet Academy to oversee the development and delivery of our national programs

- Communications
- Publicity and Marketing
- Recruitment and Retention
- Grants and Sponsorship
- Pathways and Development
- Youth Training Program

The Annual General Meeting in March was a hybrid meeting that included delegates zooming in to the main meeting at Tempe. Prior to the meeting Bernie Pfitzner, Alison Sharpe, and Mary Marsland had all indicated that they did not wish to re-nominate for positions resulting in having two nominees to fulfill four vacancies on the Board. Max Kewish and Pat Habner were duly elected.

This resulted in a Board with five elected directors, Kah Yang Loke continuing his term as an Appointed Director as Treasurer, and Jim Clement remaining as Honorary Secretary to the Board. Executive Officer Rob Murray took on the responsibilities of Finance Officer following the resignation of Angeline Tan.

With two vacancies on the Board, a skills analysis of the Directors was conducted to identify skills gaps, and expressions of interest for Directors were called for on a number of occasions throughout the year. In May, Bob Berry fulfilled one of the vacancies on the Board to assist with the project management of national projects. Whilst Bob was unable to continue on the Board for an extended period of time, his contribution was invaluable in sharpening the focus of the operations projects and in formulating the decision to employ a CEO.

On the lawn, there were still several events where Covid affected participation, notably the Eire Cup, which neither Tasmania nor Western Australia were able to attend. Once events were back in full swing the participation rate was high, notably the Interstate Shield in Adelaide where there were over 100 entrants in the Australian men's and women's competitions.

Once every 16 years, Australia hosts the MacRobertson shield. The “MacRob” was established by Sir Macpherson Robertson in 1925 as a team challenge event between Australia and England, the most iconic, historic and significant competitive croquet event in the international calendar.

The hosting of the Mac Rob provided the perfect opportunity for the induction of the inaugural inductee, Sir MacPherson Robertson, into the newly established Australian Croquet Association Hall of Fame.

The two-and-a-half-week-long event is challenging to host at the best of times let alone with the added complication of how to deal with the potential threat of Covid both before and during the event. Would like to thank the Victorian Croquet Association for hosting the event at the Victorian Croquet Centre, and the many volunteers who prepared lawns, set hoops, refereed, catered, and organised the administration and management of the event.

One of the positives that have come out of Covid has been the increase in the live streaming of events. The live streaming of the MacRob, provided by '[MySportLive](#)' included commentary provided by both local players and remotely from players around the World. Gareth Denyer continues to develop innovative technology to enhance the viewers' experience.

Throughout the year the Board reviewed and adopted numerous policies including;

- Discipline of Members Policy
- Child Safeguarding Policy V2:
- Complaints Disputes and Discipline Policy V2:
- Improper Use of Drugs and Medicines Policy V2:
- Member Protection Policy V2
- Personal Grievance,
- Review & Appeals,
- Whistle-blower Policy
- Social Media

At the International level, the Board discussed and deliberated on no less than 10 WCF (World Croquet Federation) items, including:

- Mac Robertson Shield Event
- World Championship Frequency
- Draft Rules – GC and AC
- Ranking Regulations
- Referee Regulations

The most significant decision made by the Board in the past year was the decision to appoint a Chief Executive Officer. The increase in governance and compliance for National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) and the decreasing number of volunteers at all levels of administration is resulting in many of the functions and tasks being undertaken by employees.

The Board engaged the services of Sportspeople Recruitment, an employment agency that specialises in the recruitment of employees for sporting organisations, to advertise the position and provide a short list of applicants.

Melanie Woosnam was appointed as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Croquet Association to commence in January 2023. Melanie, a former Hockeyroo, brings a wealth of experience and knowledge from numerous National and State sporting organisations and will improve the delivery of support and services to all our participants.

I would like to thank all Officer Bearers and Committee Members for their valuable volunteer work during year.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members and Staff for their support, and patience throughout the many hours of Zoom meetings.

Kind Regards

**Jim Nicholls**  
**Chair Australian Croquet Association**

## Secretary's Report

### The Board

Board meetings were held via Zoom on the third Wednesday of each month during 2022, except for:

- the March and September meetings which were held as face-to-face meetings following the AGM and Discussion Forum in March, and the Discussion Forum in September, on the Mondays following the conclusion of the Eire Cup and Interstate Shield respectively; and
- the June meeting, which was also held as a face-to-face meeting over the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> June, in Canberra. As in the previous year, as much business was conducted over drinks and meals as in formal meetings.

An additional Board meeting was held in February to deal only with matters concerning the Academy.

The ACA Board for the year 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and Directors' attendance at Board meetings comprised:

- |                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| • Mary Marsden (1 Jan – 19 Mar)       | 2/3   |
| • Alison Sharpe (1 Jan – 19 Mar)      | 2/3   |
| • Bernie Pfitzner (1 Jan – 19 Mar)    | 3/3   |
| • Jim Nicholls (Chair)                | 13/13 |
| • Max Kewish (Deputy chair)           | 13/13 |
| • Barbara Northcott                   | 12/13 |
| • Kerri-Ann Organ                     | 13/13 |
| • Kah Yang Loke (appointed Treasurer) | 7/13  |
| • Pat Habner (19 Mar – 31 Dec)        | 10/10 |
| • Bob Berry (18 May – 18 Jun)         | 2/2   |

### Governance

The largest impact on governance during the year was the adoption of the National Integrity Framework including the integral polices and the acceptance of the role of the National Sports Tribunal in disputes within Croquet & Gateball.

The following governance documents were adopted, amended, or rescinded during the year:

- Jan – Selection Policy amended  
Coaching Committee ToR amended
- Feb – National Integrity Framework v1 adopted  
Child Safeguarding Policy v1 adopted  
Competition Manipulation and Sport Wagering Policy v1 adopted  
Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy v1 adopted  
Improper Use of Drugs & Medicine Policy v1 adopted  
Member Protection Policy v1 adopted  
Board Meeting Policy v1 adopted
- Mar – Academy ToR v1 adopted  
Academy General manager PD v1 adopted  
Discipline of Members Policy v1 adopted
- Apr - Child Safeguarding Policy v2 adopted  
Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy v2 adopted  
Improper Use of Drugs & Medicine Policy v2 adopted  
Member Protection Policy v2 adopted  
Code of Conduct v1 adopted  
Conduct and Disciplinary Policy v1 adopted  
Review and Appeals Policy v1 adopted  
Marketing Committee ToR v1 adopted
- May – Affiliation Fees Working Group ToR v1 adopted  
Hall of Fame Regulations v1 adopted  
TRegs amended
- Jun – Player Development Pathways WG ToR rescinded



By Laws rescinded

Personal Grievance Policy V2 adopted

Review & Appeals Policy V2 adopted

Social Media Policy V2 adopted

Integrity Education Plan adopted

- Aug - Gateball Development Program adopted
- Sep – Board Directors’ Position Description v1.1 adopted

Election Policy v1.1 adopted

Whistleblower Policy v1. Adopted

Coaching Committee ToR v1.2 adopted

Tournament Sponsorship Policy v1 adopted

Gateball HPM ToR adopted v1 adopted

- Nov – National Coordinators of Referees ToR v1.1 adopted

International Engagement for Gateball Policy v1 adopted

- Dec - Child Safeguarding Policy v2.1 amended

Livestreaming Policy v1.0 adopted

Gateball Referee Accreditation and Reaccreditation Framework v1.0 adopted

During the year letters of support were issued on behalf of the Board:

- To the NSW Government Community Building Partnership Team in support of Wagga Wagga (NSW) Croquet Club to apply for a grant under this scheme
- To the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal in support of a Parkes (NSW) Croquet Club application under the Strengthening Rural Communities program
- To Macedon Ranges Shire Council in support of Kyneton (Vic) Croquet Club submission for funding to upgrade its facilities in time for its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026
- To Willoughby City Council in support of Chatswood (NSW) Croquet Club’s request to continue at and manage its current site.

I am pleased to report that the Canberra Croquet Club’s application for a grant to extend its heritage listed clubhouse, for which a letter of support was issued last year, was successful and that the extensions have been completed and the ‘new’ clubhouse formally opened.

Work continues with Standards Australia to develop a standard for the lighting of croquet courts, with Wal Mills (Maitland CC) as the Croquet Australia representative on the LG-009 Sports Lighting Committee.

**Jim Clement**  
**Secretary to the Board**

## STATE ASSOCIATIONS



Following adoption of our Strategic Plan 2022-2026 in December 2021, we have been making progress towards our goals for 2026.

*Building capability* Our aim is for every club to have at least one coach and one referee in each of the codes they play at the club. In 2022 the State Coordinators Coaching and GC Refereeing, in particular, made significant progress in training and accrediting new officials. We now have 82 members who are accredited coaches (up from 59 at the end of 2021), and 204 members who are accredited referees, including 121 accredited GC referees.

Using grant funding, we also commissioned work to develop a training pathway for referees / referee tutors / referee examiners, which has been referred to Croquet Australia for consideration.

Members of our revitalised Tournaments and Fixtures Committee have trained around 20 members in using Croquet scores and offer training would-be Tournament Managers.

A major initiative during 2022 was our Player Development Project, funded by a grant from the Victorian Government. In both Association and Golf Croquet, we have been running sets of three two-day workshops over six months, aimed to help players who are interested in competing develop their skills and strategies. The workshops are also being used to provide experience for Assistant Coaches. The resources developed to support the workshops have been used by lead Coaches to run workshops outside the project, and we expect this will expand.

*Building membership* Covid was a significant challenge in Victoria - clubs were required to close for many months in 2020 and 2021. In 2022 clubs have been rebuilding their membership and by the end of 2022 we were back to around 2958 members. Recruitment initiatives have included weekly stories in local newspapers; introductory courses for beginners; well-publicised celebrations for croquet milestones such as centenaries and World Croquet Day; and outreach via social media.

In 2022 we were also able to support a regional competition between teams from local high schools; this is an initiative we are planning to build on in the future.

The President routinely sends a welcome letter to all new members soon after they join and invites them to complete a survey about what attracted them to croquet. While the numbers responding to date are quite small, they indicate that almost all our new recruits have played some other sport; most of them (about two-thirds) only recently encountered croquet; and most of them enjoy both the social aspects of croquet and the character of the game.

*Updating the image of croquet* Over the past two years we have been involved in a significant commitment to live streaming high level competition croquet, including in 2022 coordinating the commentary team for the MacRobertson Shield. We saw the MacRob as an opportunity to present croquet as a challenging international sport, especially on social media. We initiated interstate and international collaboration in publicising and commentating on the MacRob and achieved good viewer numbers and attentiveness. For future events, we would like to see Croquet Australia establish early connections with contacts in the mainstream media (press and television).

*Financial stability.* In 2022 we were able to avoid drawing down on our investments, and we are in a healthy financial position. This is largely because individual members have taken on work which was previously done by salaried employees. For example, the Victorian Croquet Centre has been kept open since being “mothballed” in 2020 mainly because of the very considerable efforts of volunteers. It is not clear for how long this will be sustainable and what other options might be considered. Towards the end of 2022 the Council established a working group to develop a consultative paper on the future of the VCC, and to report to a special meeting of regional delegates before the end of 2023. Croquet Victoria has also recently contracted a part-time Administrative Assistant.

*Governance.* During 2022 a working group has been tasked with developing proposals for a new constitution. These have been flagged but not finalized. Work on this continues into 2023.

Many individuals contributed to Croquet Victoria’s activities in 2022. Too many to name. My thanks to all of them.

**Kate Patrick**  
**President**  
**Victorian Croquet Association Inc**



2023 is already off to a flying start with our very own Curtis Mead winning the Australian U21 Golf Croquet Championship in January. Along with Curtis, Jamie Fleming will attend the World U21 GC Championships in New Zealand. The development of the U21 members has been ongoing, thanks to Peter Tracey who has worked hard to build up numbers and encourage younger players. The results are testament to his excellent coaching and commitment.

Competitions are well supported with winners shared between most clubs. Tasmania is fortunate to have the Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre with eight lawns available for competitions.

It was pleasing to have many visitors travelling from interstate to play in the Easter Competition 2022 held at the Centre and managed by the Northern Clubs. In the South, the MCMF Kingston CC 19 hoop Competition, held over the long weekend in June, offers good Prize Money and attracts players from interstate.

Our Interstate Teams continue to improve their performances and, with dedicated coaching, it is only a matter of time to when Tasmania will bring home the shield. Our members are looking forward to some high level coaching from Martin Clarke in February.

A very successful day was held at Government House when our Southern Club Members took over the Croquet Lawn for Government House Open Day to demonstrate how to play Croquet and encourage new members. All clubs have maintained and improved their membership with Sandy Bay now having a “waiting list” for future players.

Tony Walker, a member of East Launceston, continues to be a voice on the National Marketing Committee. We acknowledge the work that this committee undertakes and look forward to some great outcomes in the coming year.

Most clubs participated in information sessions on the National Member Management Platform. These were presented in the North and South of the state by John Hayes from Coaching Cohort.

A review of our Strategic Plans tells us that Croquet Tasmania must continue to strive to increase membership by increased publicity utilizing social media, local publications and Croquet Australia Marketing. This will be a priority for 2023 as we work towards hosting the Eire Cup in 2024 and the WCF GC Teams Championships Tier 1 in 2025.

**Sylvia Wing**  
**President**  
**Croquet Tas**



2022 has seen the resumption of most NSW regular Tournaments and Club activities, despite some ongoing challenges from Covid, and some devastating floods and wet weather conditions impacting a number of NSW Clubs and players.

NSW has had a successful year in national competitions: winning both the Eire Cup trophy for Association Croquet, and the Interstate Shield for Golf Croquet. Big congratulations to both teams. NSW hosted the Eire Cup in Sydney and was pleased to welcome all the teams to a Reception in Government House, hosted by the Patrons of Croquet NSW: Her Excellency the Honourable



Figure 1 NSW Eire Cup Team (AC) winners

Margaret Beazley AC KC and Mr Dennis Wilson. The Welcome events for the Men's and Women's Singles, and the final dinner were hosted at CNSW HQ at Tempe, with catering provided by our neighbours: the Concordia Club. And Sydney Clubs generously hosted the visitors, resulting in a very successful Tournament, despite the absence of Tasmania and Western Australia.



*Figure 2 Lismore Clubhouse after the flood*

On the other side of the equation, a number of Clubs have been devastated by flooding: Lismore and Casino the most affected, with significant lawn and clubhouse damage. Other Clubs have also been unable to play for significant times in the year, with consistently wet conditions, and Tournaments have been cancelled and relocated. It was great to see the support by other Clubs, in very tangible ways. Evidence of a very generous community.

One of the key goals of 2022 has been to build player numbers across NSW: affiliated player numbers have increased from 3002 to 3122. This is 4% growth from December 2021, with three new clubs joining us at Parkes, Griffith and Lake Illawarra. Our goal is 10% increase by June this year. A Club survey has been held which revealed a strong appetite for growth by most clubs, and we welcome the new recruitment initiatives already undertaken.

A major initiative of 2022 has been the introduction of the first group of Club Hubs across the State. Canberra, Coutts Crossing, Port Macquarie, Strathfield and Toronto Clubs have taken up the role to deliver coaching, competition, and increasing the skills and expertise of players around their region. The Hubs receive \$5,000 per year (for 2 years) in funding to assist in delivering these programs. They are already introducing more people to Gateball and Ricochet, as well as hosting Tournaments and building coaching and referee skills. The program for 2023 is currently being developed, and new Hubs will be added this year. Christine Edlund has taken on the role of the Club Hub Co-ordinator. We thank Rosie Landrebe for her initiative in establishing this program.



*Figure 3 Gateball coaching at Toronto Club Hub*

The State is seeing increasing interest and participation in Ricochet and Gateball, fostered by the State Co-ordinators (Ray Chapman, NSW Board Member, has just been appointed as National Ricochet Co-ordinator). We look forward to the growth of these codes, with the NSW Gateball Championships to be held in Albury in September 2023, and the National Ricochet Championships to be held at Tempe in Sydney in April 2023.

A number of NSW players were selected to represent Australia in 2022: Alison Sharpe in the Golf Croquet World Championships (England) and in the MacRobertson Shield (Melbourne). Alison was also selected to represent Australia at the ACA Women's World Championships in New Zealand in January, alongside Kerri Ann Organ and Rosie Landrebe. (Rosie later withdrew from the event). Ethan Gumbrell was selected to represent Australia in the NSW Under 21 GC World Championships held in New Zealand in February 2023. Ethan acquitted himself very well at the Australian Championships in Queensland in November with Gold, Silver and Bronze medals.

CNSW has changed to a Calendar financial year, and has welcomed to the Board in October: Fidy Westgarth together with the return of Simon Cook who join Steve Miles (Treasurer), Kate McLoughlin (Chair), Rik Mills (Secretary), Liz Friend and Ray Chapman. We thank David Scott (Secretary) and Rosie Landrebe for their work on the Board.

Croquet NSW is continuing to improve the State HQ facility at Mackey Park, Tempe, in conjunction with Cooks River Croquet Club. Both organisations are participating in a Plan of Management for Mackey Park and look forward to securing the venue for both local use, and access for players across the state to this top quality venue.

Forty three CNSW Tournaments were held during 2022 (including some held over from 2021) of which around half were hosted by Clubs around the State. CNSW appreciates the dedication of the Tournaments Team in managing these events as well as the national AC Championships; and also appreciates the work of local Tournament Managers referees and caterers who enable players to enjoy their competition.

Our Golden Mallet Award for 2022 for a volunteer nominated by Clubs around the State was awarded to Pat Moroney from Jamberoo.

NSW acknowledges the contribution of John Park, who retired as National Co-ordinator of Gateball. John has been a driving force in gateball and in establishing many of the frameworks used currently; I am sure he will continue to contribute. We look forward to 2023, with the establishment of Mel Woosnam as the first CEO of Croquet Australia, and to some significant progress in the areas on member and event management, membership growth, and raising the profile of croquet across the nation.



**Kate McLoughlin**  
**Chair CNSW**



2022 was a turbulent year in SA from a Board perspective. A number of Board members resigned during the year leaving only 2 members and the need on 30 December to hold a Special General Meeting. I was elected at this Special General Meeting and we now have a Board comprising seven members. It was pleasing to see players rally to support Croquet SA at this difficult time.



The year was a year of recovery for croquet in SA. After the virtual shutdown of activities due to Covid and the slow recovery in 2021, the year has seen competition and playing numbers return to around pre-Covid levels.

Pennant competition numbers and entries to individual events were all well up on 2021 thanks to the good work of organisers.

With states recovering from the impact of Covid, the Eire Cup was reduced to a four team competition, this year. SA had a number of first-time players in the team and the event proved to be a good learning experience for them. Having two representatives from SA in the MacRobertson Shield team was also a highlight for AC, as was Dwayne McCormick winning the Australian Men's Singles.

The ISS was held in Adelaide in September and whilst it is a massive workload, we were pleased with the event outcomes. It was a pity we couldn't turn on better weather. It was one of the wettest Septembers for a long while. Nonetheless, it was good to get the ISS rolling again after the Covid delays.

From a team perspective, our GC team went into the final day with a chance of snatching victory. Unfortunately, they could not beat WA in our final match. The team had worked hard for some months in the lead up and the results were a testament to their commitment.

Gateball continues to grow with more clubs playing and several other clubs planning demonstration sessions. The State Championship in both teams and doubles was well attended with a good representation from interstate.

Our desire to get an additional lawn at our Hutt Rd headquarters to give us 4 in all remains a priority. We will be pressing the Adelaide City Council in coming months to advance this need.

An outside consultant has been engaged to develop a strategic plan for croquet in SA and we expect to have the plan presented to the Board in the first half of 2023.

The newly elected Board is committed to working to provide SA with strong leadership, sound financial management, a continued focus on our regional clubs while maintaining support for our metropolitan clubs and fostering the growth of all mallet sports.

SA looks forward to accepting the challenges of 2023, working through these and achieving successful outcomes.

**Graham Thomas**  
**Croquet South Australia**



## **Covid in West Australia**

Croquetwest Management Committee had a challenging year dealing with the aftermath of the Covid 19 Pandemic. We are lucky to play a sport which naturally is Covid safe.

Thanks again to all those Croquet Clubs, committees of management and all the volunteers who safely secured each club, clubhouse and liaised diligently with each local council they lived in.

## **Positives for Croquetwest for the 2022-2023:**

- The value of Marketing. Croquetwest:
  - received a grant for \$30,000,
  - employed a marketing consultant,
  - developed a marketing content plan,
  - successful campaign driving membership growth and increasing club numbers ensuring club longevity across the state,
  - included videos for television and social media ads on Facebook, YouTube, instagram and Regional TV.
- Croquetwest had
  - 743 members in June 2019 in 20 Croquet Clubs,
  - 874 in January 2021 in 20 Croquet Clubs
  - 966 affiliated members on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 and 25 Affiliated Croquet Clubs.
  - 1057 Registered players, 441 Male and 616 Female players. Some players registered in more than one club.
  - 25 Affiliated Croquet Clubs. More on the way this year.
  - 301 of the members have joined since Croquetwest introduced the incentive to have a fee reduction for the first two years of membership.
- Croquetwest has been promoting croquet successfully as a tool to help people in the aftermath of Covid and the benefits of being part of sport hubs in WA.
- All Croquetwest policies have been updated and Croquetwest has adopted the six policies of the National Integrity Framework March 2022 covering,
  - National Integrity Framework,
  - Child Safety Policy,
  - Competition, Manipulation and Sport Wagering Policy,
  - Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy,
  - Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy, and
  - Member Protection Policy
- Croquet/croquet clubs in WA have been very successful with getting 29 grants for a total of \$267,000. Well done to all those successful clubs.
- Sporting hubs concept being accepted. Croquetwest new clubs have been supported by Lions Club, Tennis Clubs, Bowls Club (2).
- Australian Masters Games, held in April 2022, was severely affected by Covid resulting in fewer entries than expected. Well done to those members who achieved their medals.



- Croquetwest Newsletter. Big thankyou to Caryll Marshall for her tremendous effort in providing a newsletter with relevant information and the usual fun/jokes for all to enjoy.
- The WCF have updated the rules for AC and GC Croquet.
- The Advantage handicapping system was trialled in WA successfully and can be used for tournaments if preferred by the club.

## **Changes**

The Future of Croquetwest and Australian Croquet Association, as well as all other sports in Australia, will experience some changes in the future due to the large loss of volunteers in all sports.

Members are not volunteering to go on management committees. Clubs may have to seek and pay committee members from outside their clubs to meet their obligations under their Rules of Association (Constitution).

## **Volunteers**

Croquetwest recognises the significant value of our volunteers who play a critical role in the sport of croquet and our clubs are dependent on our volunteers to keep our clubs open and our players playing croquet. Big thank you to all those volunteers that we have keeping our clubs alive. Please show appreciation and respect for all the work that the volunteers do and ask can you help.

**Max Kewish**

**President Croquet West**



CAQ celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022. Whilst Covid is not quite behind us we were able to celebrate in a number of ways. Our patron, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Adrian Schinner, hosted an afternoon tea for more than 80 members of Croquet Queensland. Every club and code were represented, and many old stories were brought back to life. CAQ members received a commemorative badge and Inter-Regional pennants were held for each code. These inter-regional competitions were a great success. It is possibly an idea for this to be extended across the States.

Some of our clubs, along with northern NSW clubs were inundated during the February floods, necessitating major work on the part of our club volunteers. Members of local communities also helped with the clear up and Councils offered grant money to help with major structural issues. All clubs were back in action very quickly despite no electricity, refrigeration, etc. Most of this is made possible by the stalwart members of all clubs supporting those affected as competition venues.

We were able to run all events in our Event Calendar including a number of new events, such as the GC 6+doubles held in three Regions, the GC Presidents Medal and Tiers for AC. This coming year will see a Women's first tier.

CAQ ran 24 events throughout the year including their first U21 Golf Bronze medal. We also hosted the Australian U21 Gold and Silver medal, the U21 National Doubles and Singles. It was a very well attended event by players and their families from five States. The standard of play was exceptionally high (look out GC players) and Eildon are to be congratulated on hosting such a well-run event.

There has been a steady increase in membership numbers throughout the State, and a significant increase in the number of GC and Gateball coaches and referees.

There is an updated Strategic plan for 2022-2024 and CAQ look forward to starting work on the operational plan in 2023.

## **Willy Silk**

### **Croquet Queensland**



The Australian Croquet Academy was created to provide functions and programs on behalf of the Australian Croquet Association Inc. (ACA) Board, ACA Sub-committees, Appointed Officers and ACA working groups. The primary role of the Academy is to develop and provide programs and resources for all four disciplines, at all levels and in all capacities, be it as a player, an official (coach, referee, etc.) administrator or volunteer.

In March 2022, Greg Bury was appointed by the ACA Board as the Academy General Manager - to manage, develop, implement and maintain the key Academy functions and programs. Some of these include:

1. Systems and Infrastructure Development – maintenance of ACA's database, websites and social media platforms.
2. Skills Development – development and maintenance of the Learning Management Systems for the delivery of courses including, Coaching, Refereeing, Tournament Management, Hoop Setting, etc.
3. Club Support – development and delivery of Club Support information including, basic Governance programs, suitable for all states, policy templates, recruitment and retention programs, grants and sponsorship, lawn care and marketing

4. Participation – development and delivery of programs to increase participation including the Youth Training and Schools program

5. Promotion and Marketing - development and delivery of programs which focus on improving the image of all disciplines in Australia including National events, the National Newsletter, World Croquet Day and numerous player, coach, referee and development programs delivered across Australia by ACA Staff and Appointed Officers.

### **National IT Projects**

ACA embarked on a comprehensive IT project to enhance information management systems and data collection, improve member management and communication and streamline administration processes. This project included the development of a national member database and member management platform, an overhaul of the Learning Management System and an update and refresh of the ACA, Academy and Play Croquet websites.

ACA engaged John Hayes from Coaching Cohort to deliver this project and in conjunction with the Academy General Manager, a planning and consultation process began with the ACA and States to develop detailed project plans to manage the delivery of the project. The Tidy HQ platform was chosen and customised for Croquet and a National Development Group was established to test the capability and functionality of the platform. All ACA Board Members and nominated Super Users in each State were provided a sign in to review and provide feedback on the platform. A total of eighteen Zoom calls took place to demonstrate and answer any questions in relation to the Member Management Platform. The project plans were monitored on a regular basis with the States and weekly updates were provided to the ACA Board. Face to face training sessions were completed in Hobart and Launceston so Tasmania could be the first State to Launch the platform. A national roll out proposal was then presented to the ACA Board for approval.

This IT project was then halted in late 2022 whilst the ACA Board embarked on the process of appointing the first ever ACA CEO. This project is currently being reviewed by the new CEO and an IT Advisor.

### **Youth Training Program**

All National Sporting Organisations need a Youth Training Program. These Programs are designed to ensure clubs have the skills and knowledge to train anyone under the age of 18 and meet their legal requirements.

A project plan was completed with all components to be actioned by Jan 2023. A national tour was scheduled to train all Youth Training Coaches and go live for the first semester in 2023. We would then be eligible for grant money to pay for coaches and equipment.

A proposal was put forward to the ACA Board to engage a Graphic Designer to complete the Youth Training Manuals which was approved in February 2023.

To be recognised as an ASC Sporting Schools Program we need to sign off the following:

1. Have a Coaching Program that is recognised by the National Sporting Body (ACA)
2. Provide training manuals for Youth Coaches

3. Have accredited Youth Training Coaches
4. Have a School Sports Logo
5. Have session plans that have been tested

A quote was provided to complete the School Sports Logo and this project is a part of the ACA marketing and rebranding project to be delivered in early 2023.

The session plans have been completed and will be graphic designed with the Manuals.

When the Youth Training Manual is completed the National Coaching Team will work together to help sign off the remaining components.

### **Youth Training Videos**

Throughout the course of 2022, Murray Tinker has been working with the Academy General Manager to develop a series of video's and digital content to build the resource capability within the Academy. These digital resources and videos will be accessible to all members and have been made to cater for all disciplines. The following videos and resources will be available on the Academy website:

A library of coaching tips.

- A series of "how to play" videos for all disciplines.
- A school's promotional video for students and teachers to get excited about croquet.
- A series of 20 "how to" video clips (e.g., How to use gameplan).
- A series of 15 alternate games for school sport and club fun days (e.g., Pirates).

This project is nearing completion and will be fully rolled out during 2023.

### **Marketing Rebranding Project**

In June 2022, the National Marketing Committee requested for the ACA Board to consider a proposal to look at rebranding the sport and creating a brand identity and purpose for the ACA and State Associations and the various disciplines and products the sport has to offer. The new look brand structure will have a contemporary brand logo for ACA that could be standardised across 6 State Associations while at the same time having their own identity. New brand and marketing guidelines will also be developed as part of the project.

The purpose of the rebrand and alignment of the brand and identity across the whole sport is designed to provide the sport with the opportunity to better market the sport to both external and internal stakeholders, with the objective to raise the awareness and profile of croquet and the associated disciplines through a more contemporary marketing identity, increase participation and ultimately attract commercial partners.

The ACA and States are committed to working collaboratively on this project to deliver a new and vibrant brand for the sport and develop aligned brand identities and programs. Following an initial

workshop conducted in September 2022 which was well supported by the States, the ACA plan to roll out the next phase of this marketing project in early 2023.

### **Sports Community**

Sports Community is an organisation that helps set up Clubs for success by providing volunteers with the support, tools and resources needed to ensure their clubs are professionally run. All members will have access to the Club Spot online training and resource hub with unlimited logins for ACA affiliated clubs to access their entire website content. This includes checklists, guides, eBooks, video tutorials and podcasts.

There will also be 20 customised topics, including a grants section with all available grants for each state.

### **The Australian Croquet Online magazine**

The ACA Online magazine was developed to provide all members with the latest news and information. This 30-page quarterly edition is filled with news and information from across Australia with each State allocated a dedicated section to provide updates and information on what is happening locally. If you have not seen a copy, please check it out on the Croquet Australia website.

Currently we also have 9 paid advertisements that bring in some monthly revenue

### **Social Media & ACA**

It is great to see so much more activity on Facebook. The ACA will continue to keep the news and information as interactive as possible. Please remember that ACA can share any news items or posts from States and Clubs and we also encourage States and Clubs to do the same to promote our collective activities as broadly as possible.

### **Conclusion**

The role and awareness of the Academy is still evolving, and it is important the ACA continues to promote the purpose and benefits to all State Associations, Clubs and members. As the ACA starts to get traction with the national database project, the new Learning Management System, the revamped website and the marketing rebranding project then the role and outcomes of the Academy will start to be fully realised.

I look forward to continuing to manage and deliver the Academy programs and collaborate with and support State Associations, Clubs, Administrators and Volunteers to build the capacity and capability across the sport to ensure the sustainability of all our disciplines and Clubs throughout Australia.

**Greg Bury**  
**ACA Academy General Manager**

## National Ricochet Coordinator

I was only appointed late July 2022 to this position after the retirement of Lynda Davis.

A successful handover of the position documents and other material was completed.

Jenny Lee was appointed by Queensland as the States Ricochet co-ordinator taking over from Lynda Davis

The inaugural Australian Ricochet championship both doubles and singles is scheduled to be held at Tempe in NSW, mid-April after successful lobbying with the ACA Events committee.

The ACA Board approved \$800 prize money from the Parbery Sponsorship for the Australian Ricochet Championships in 2023

Richard Hughes the NSW Ricochet co-ordinator successfully introduced a CNSW Division 3 Ricochet state championship both singles and doubles and has scheduled a CNSW Division 2 Ricochet championship in 2023.

Maurice Cevell – Hewitt the Victorian Ricochet co-ordinator has scheduled the inaugural Victorian State Ricochet both doubles and singles championship in March.

The introduction of all these four championships is seen as an ideal way to increase the awareness and participation of Ricochet in the States.

Maurice Cevall-Hewitt was appointed as an Examining Ricochet Referee in Victoria, enabling Maurice to approve Referees without having to call on NSW supervising referees to perform this task.

A review of the existing Ricochet 2019 rule book is currently being undertaken with some changes been considered for introduction in 2023.

All three Ricochet state co-ordinators have worked tirelessly to promote Ricochet in their States and I thank them for their efforts.

**Regards**

**Ray Chapman**

**National Ricochet Co-Ordinator**

## Gateball National Coordinator

Gateball has experienced a year of renewal and expansion in 2022 as we were finally able to reunite with friends around Australia.

Our Australian Gateball Championships, delayed from 2021, were successfully held in April 2022 at the Gold Coast High Performance Centre.

The 2022 event was supported by a grant from the Gold Coast City Council and donations from sponsors including Officeworks, Bunnings, Nichiyo, Gateball Solutions Australia Inc., Home Instead (home based community care) and J.A. Carroll Solicitors to name a few.

While international participants, normally keen to visit Australia and play at the event were still unable to attend, players travelled from NSW, ACT, VIC, QLD and SA to play. The inaugural Doubles event attracted 20 teams and the team event had 16 team entries.

Due to the growth in Gateball player numbers and the success of the Doubles event, we have planned a four-day event for the 2023 AGC event which will be held in September 2023 at Twin City Croquet Club in Albury.



NSW, QLD, VIC and SA all held a state tournament. Queensland held seven tournaments across the year in different regions and as part of the CAQ Centenary celebrations introduced an Inter-regional Pennants tournament for Gateball. Victoria and New South Wales also held events and there would have been more except for the poor weather conditions experienced this year. All events had high participation rates and benefited from visitors from interstate. Gateball players have thrived on being able to travel again.



Opportunities to promote Gateball in WA and Tasmania have not yet been realised although there is ACA loan equipment in both states and there are players in WA playing on a monthly basis. We hope that visits to both states will be easier now that border restrictions have eased.

In July, John Park, resigned as National Coordinator of Gateball. The Gateball community is extremely grateful for the guidance that John provided during his 7 years in the position and the support he continues to offer.

The Gateball Australia website <https://gateball.com.au/> continues as a source of information for the Gateball community within Australia and internationally. Upcoming tournaments and Gateball stories are published on the website as well as a wealth of other videos and information about learning and playing Gateball. The Gateball Google group email distribution list is also used to keep players informed of events both in Australia and overseas and other Gateball news, and players can join by emailing [info@gateball.com.au](mailto:info@gateball.com.au).

This year the ACA have approved an Interstate Cup event for Gateball which will be held in 2024, the approval of a Gateball High Performance Manager position and the Gateball Australia International Engagement Policy.

Philip Brown was appointed as High-Performance Manager for Gateball. Philip and other Level 3 coaches are preparing a Captains Development Program, sponsored and funded by the ACA, to enhance Australian team performance at overseas events such as the Asian Gateball and World Gateball Championships. We look forward to delivering this course in May 2023.

A Gateball Selection Committee was established following the 2022 AGC event and a Gateball squad was selected from which Australian representative teams could be chosen. A Gateball Australia Selection Policy will be finalised in 2023. A new selection process will be undertaken after the 2023 AGC event.

Bruce McAlister as the National Gateball Referee Coordinator and the Gateball Referee Committee finalised the Gateball Australia Referee Accreditation and Reaccreditation Framework which has been approved by the ACA Board. The Framework clarifies the referee development and reaccreditation processes for Gateball and is supported by a Referee Logbook which will be introduced for all Gateball referees in 2023. The Logbook will replace the annual referee reaccreditation cards. The Gateball Referee levels were changed to Level 1, Level 2 and International and we look forward to accrediting more Gateball referees over the year ahead.

The Gateball Australia Tournament Regulations were also approved by the Gateball Referee Committee this year and will take effect in 2023. The Regulations replace the existing ACA regulations and Gateball Information Pamphlets relating to tournaments and provides one authoritative document for Gateball tournament and event management.

Gateball coach numbers have increased throughout 2022. Level 3 coaches have been accredited in each of NSW, QLD, VIC and SA and several level 2 coaches were trained in QLD, VIC and NSW. Gateball coaches have been generous with their time and have also visited many clubs that have indicated an interest in learning Gateball. We have new Gateball players at several clubs thanks to the wonderful management committees of the clubs who supported the Gateball introduction days and our coaches who love to share Gateball with others.

**Ros Crowe**

**National Coordinator - Gateball**



## National Coaching Coordinator

### National Coaching Conference

All State Coaching Coordinators and special guests were invited to attend the National Coaching Conference that was held in Adelaide on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> of September.

On Day 1 all participants enjoyed presentations lead by:

1. Tracey Mogensen (SportAus Assistant Director, Operations, Sporting Schools)
2. Peter Banks (Leader, Schools Sport unit NSW)
3. Greg Bryant (Sport Development Officer Croquet NZ)
4. Bob Boorman (President of Bowls Australia)
5. Haylee Jesensek (Systems and Operations Bowls Australia)

On Day 2 all State Coaching Coordinators provided an update on what was happening in their state with ideas and learnings shared within the group. Participants then workshopped opportunities for improvement. All tasks to be completed were then recorded on an action plan with accountabilities and timeframes. For a complete summary read the Spring Edition of the Online Magazine.

### Coach Accreditation

All clubs need to ensure they have trained accredited coaches to be able to deliver safe, effective and enjoyable coaching programs for their players.

Any member/player of ACA is covered for personal accidents when actively engaged in and appropriately registered for the purpose of playing the sport of croquet or associated disciplines. This includes any officials and/or volunteers acting for and on behalf of any Club, Region, State Association or the ACA. All volunteers are covered if they are acting in connection with club/organisation activities and whilst conforming to the rules of the club or organisation.

General liability is provided for all Clubs and their facilities and covers any member, player or volunteer acting in connection with club activities. All accredited coaches & officials are covered by the ACA's professional indemnity insurance for breaches of professional duty.

### Refresher Training

Refresher training is now due and refresher content has been reviewed for all disciplines. The SCC's will be rolling these out shortly.

### Training Manuals and Badges

There is now a national hub in Canberra. Any state needing additional manuals or badges can order them through ACA. Reprints will be completed if needed. All manuals and badges are still provided to all successful candidates free of charge.

## **Learning Management Platform**

The revamped Learning Management System was scheduled to be updated in January to a new and improved platform. The final content and elements of the platform are currently being completed as the existing platform needed to be rebuilt. Once testing of the system and a review of the content has been conducted it will be launched and readily available for use.

## **Application Forms for becoming a Coach**

The coach application forms have been updated to include the new requirements. Level 3 Golf, Level 4 Association and Level 2 Ricochet Coaches now need a lawn craft qualification which replaces the Referee requirements.

## **Active Coaches**

Active coaches help clubs recruit, retain and develop members. Every club needs to now have a head coach to coordinate all session at the club. The ACA appreciates everything our active coaches are doing and we look forward to providing enhanced support to all coaches via the new Learning Management System.

## **State Coaching Coordinators**

State Coaching Coordinators play a vital role in coordinating the presenters to provide training for our coaches and help review the content in the National Program.

Over the last 12 months some states have seen huge increases in coaching numbers thanks to active state coaching coordinators. A special thanks to the active state coaching coordinators within the States. Your work is greatly appreciated.

## **ANCC**

There has been a number of policy changes and updates completed with all our training resources for the national program. A special thanks to the Assistant National Coaching Coordinator Barb Piggott for all the work she has done behind the scenes.

## **Conclusion**

Our main priority is to launch the Youth Training Program and update the Learning Management Platform.

The National Coaching Team will continue to identify opportunities and embrace change.

Every trained coach is needed on the front line to improve our recruitment, retention and ensuring all clubs remain sustainable in the future.

There is no greater satisfaction than watching players develop and become the best they can be.

**Greg Bury**  
**National Coaching Coordinator**

## **WCF Association Croquet Laws Committee Australian Representative**

The WCF.AC.LC remain delighted at the uptake and acceptance of substantive changes incorporated into the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of the AC Laws. I personally produced power point training materials for both the new 7<sup>th</sup> Edition AC Laws and the \*TREP Program (see reference below) which the Aus NTP.AC have used to update all Australian Accredited Referees.

There also remains an expectation by some committee members (myself included) that the AC.LC will be drawn upon by the WCF to review documentation currently being produced to train and accredit new referees, however to date no such materials have been received by the committee. As a long-term member (Ex-officio) of the Australian National Technical Panel; AC, working on the AC.LC has highlighted the need for a one-world approach to accreditation and training materials.

During 2022 ACA agreed to continue the very successful reciprocal agreement with our neighbours in New Zealand regarding training and examination preparation materials. The referee Examinations were accepted by the ACA.NTP.AC in October and are in the hands of the National AC Refereeing Co-ordinator who makes them available, as requested, to all Official State Examiners once candidates are prepared to sit for accreditation. It is my understanding that a small number of individuals across several States have now sat this updated examination.

I receive a small number of enquiries from individual players regarding clarification and/or explanation of the Laws. I respond to all enquiries directly and include a copy to both the National Co-ordinator and the local State Co-ordinator. Where necessary such enquiries are referred to the Chair of the WCF.ACLC for formal consideration.

The ACLC also approve the WCF Refereeing regulation and notably this is an area in which I receive many enquiries. This perhaps is reflective of a lack of Tournament Referee Education. The ACA has a \*TREP program (Tournament Referee Education Program) which has been in operation since 2014 and has been updated to cover all codes and new versions of the Laws/Rules. This program has been run within some States in tandem with the update to the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition Laws Re-accreditation. FYIO – the Official ACA Hoop-Setting Guide Qualification Program has also been updated and is running in some States (but not all).

I believe it would aid the working of the WCF.AC.LC, and all its representatives, if the above allied programs were to be run on a much more regulated timeframe. It is by reports gathered from across all States from seminars, update programs and, of course, tournaments that issue, major or minor, are mainly brought to the committee representatives for review of the relevant areas within the Laws. I again look forward to continuing to work with the National Co-ordinator, all State Co-ordinators and NTP to improve the knowledge and understanding of not only the laws themselves but how they are intended to be implemented.

**Liz Fleming**

**WCF AC Laws Committee**

## WCF Golf Croquet Laws Committee Australian Representative

### Production of a draft of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Golf Croquet Rules

The WCF Council approved the new GC Rules on 7-March-2022. Not surprisingly the workload has dropped dramatically since the rules were published. There have been no major problems with the new Rules, but a number of issues have been raised that may require Official Rulings. So, the WCF Rules Committee will need to discuss these. When that happens, I will inform the ACA Rules Committee about rules being discussed.

### WCF Refereeing Regulations

In last year's report I mentioned that some minor changes to the WCF Refereeing Regulations will be needed following the release of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the GC Rules. These changes relate mainly to the change in how competing for the wrong hoop is dealt with. These changes have been made and Version 1.6 of the WCF Refereeing Regulations was released at the end of June last year.

### ACA Tournament Regulations

The ACA needs to update Tournament Regulations, especially with regard to how timed games should end. My preference is that the ACA Tournament Regulations say that time games end as stated in Rule 19.1.4 (subject to Rule 19.1.6), but I am aware some others have different preferences.

**John van der Touw**

**WCF GC Laws Committee**

## National Coordinator Refereeing Association Croquet

After quiet years during the pandemic, 2022 was a busy year for senior referees, made particularly so due to the lack of training of new referees in the previous two years combined with the usual retirements. There was a full program of Croquet Australia events, with the Interstate competition in Sydney in March, followed by a number of events at the Victorian Croquet Centre in spring: AC President's Eights, Australian Open Doubles and Singles, and the 15-day MacRobertson Shield competition. I wish to thank four non-Victorian referees for assistance for the Croquet Australia events – Liz Fleming, Bruce Fleming, Donna Manning and James Temlett). I also acknowledge the work of referees helping me as Tournament Referee in the MacRobertson Shield (Liz Fleming, Bruce Fleming, Brian Foley, James Temlett, Chris Grant and Graeme Roberts, the international referee from NZ). The help from outside Victoria for these events was invaluable and increased the experience of referees. I note that interstate help will be requested for the Interstate competition to be held at the Victorian Croquet Centre in March 2023.

As stated, there have been few new referees trained. In the case of Victoria, this has been a flow-on from the pandemic, and training has just recommenced. In three states, the position of State Coordinator/Director of AC Refereeing is vacant (Queensland, WA) or ineffective (NSW); this is not

satisfactory. In Queensland, Liz Fleming acted in the role. Tasmania has trained some new referees. I acknowledge the assistance of Brian Foley (Victorian State Coordinator) who ran a refresher session in Perth in August (where he was visiting family).

For a number of years, a meeting of the National Referees Committee (comprising the National and State Coordinators of AC Referees and the Australian representative on the WCF AC Laws Committee) met at the Victorian Croquet Centre on the day prior to the President's Eights. This provided both a useful face-to-face meeting, and attendees were encouraged to stay for a day or two of refereeing at national level after the event. A meeting was scheduled accordingly, and the intended participants were notified months in advance. Only I and one interstate attendee (Liz Fleming) were physically present, with three via Zoom (Tasmania – unable to travel, SA, and Victoria – with short-term health issues); NSW and WA were not represented. A disappointing attendance. The discussions are useful, but people are missing the face-to-face contact and opportunities to referee at higher levels. Attendees are largely reimbursed for costs, so that should not be a problem.

### Active Referees at 31 December 2022

	Internatio nal Referees	Senior Referees	Examining Referees	Ordinary Referees	Umpires	Total
NSW	0	1	7	16	16	40
QLD	2	1	2	29	0	34
SA	0	1	0	20	0	21
TAS	0	2	1	11	2	16
VIC	0	2	1	21	4	28
WA	0	0	2	10	1	13
National	2	7	13	107	23	152

**Mike Cohn**

**National Coordinator Refereeing Association Croquet**

## ACA Events Committee

The Committee shall:

- 1) Be known as the Events Committee;
- 2) Consist of four members.
  - currently Peter Freer, Peter Tracey, Gary Phipps & Peter Landrebe

- succession planning to this Committee remains an issue - no-one has expressed interest in becoming Chair, despite various approaches.
  - Peter Freer has exceeded his maximum period (12 years instead of 4). A position description was drafted and advertised, but Events has seen nothing further.
- 3) Agree, in conjunction with the ACA Board, a schedule for all national tournaments, 3-5 years ahead.
- currently CY 2023 is underway, now thankfully free of active Covid-19 travel restrictions.
  - CY 2024 is set, and currently working with States on finalising the rest of CY2025 and beyond (rough dates done)
  - Events helped ACA initiate a “root & branch” review of all ACA events, both current & possible, against a set of criteria setting out what these events are to achieve. Events’ discussion starter was circulated in Dec 2019 and a few responses were received in 2020. Currently in abeyance.
- 4) Negotiate with appropriate States and Clubs to implement this schedule
- CY 2025-26 is still being sorted, due to WCF events being deferred, and other negotiations are required for subsequent years
- 5) Advertise all events then finalise their programmes in consultation with the Selection and Tournament Committees.
- this is working, although longer lead times for coming events would be helpful for players wanting to book accommodation & travel well in advance.
  - on-line entry via the ACA website has been even more problematic – hopefully the new website will fix this. Still need entry closing dates publicised better. Recording entries on Croquet Scores (CS) is working well – reassures players that their entry is acknowledged and allows event organisers to track how their entries are going.
  - Programs are now effectively provided as soft copy on the ACA or host State websites, in conjunction with croquet scores, since these provide players with details of their blocks/KO draw as soon as the draws are finalised. A hard copy Program is no longer produced, and there has been no adverse reaction.
  - Other issues include the need to extend the effective lead times & liaison with Tournament Committees in each State to ensure that their preparation for each event is timely, and to head off issues before they become urgent/critical. The Appendices in ACA Tournament Regulations needs to be updated (along with the TRegs itself)
- 6) Review individual events after they are held, and in conjunction with the ACA Executive review the overall annual programme of national tournaments.
- Needs to be stepped up, both re individual events (eg chase & consider after action reviews by/with Tournament Managers, and issues raised at player’s meetings at each event) and how to better schedule the national events (in the context of international events, and cascading of Australian events down through State & Club levels).
  - Peter Tracey had been using SurveyMonkey in lieu of Player’s Meetings at each event but lost his expert and we switched to trialling fillable pdfs. We need to resume

SurveyMonkey, particularly since this allows feedback from those not at an event (especially re why they aren't) as well as from those we played.

- ACA needs a better Events Manual to pass on to each Tournament Manager, rather than them feeling they have to start from scratch (Appendix A in the TRegs sets out the timing for an event, but doesn't go into detail re what is involved, and what lessons can be passed on).

Note that Events remit does not (officially) extend to international events being held in Australia, given the Board is directly responsible following the demise of the International Events Committee. Clearly Events needs to be involved since those events affect the scheduling of Australian events, and Events is now more closely involved re these bids/events. Events has also been volunteering to help AC & GC Selectors collect Expressions of Interest in playing on overseas World Championships, given their resources/workloads.

**Peter Freer**  
**Events Chair**

# **Australian Croquet Association**

**ABN: 90 330 745 920**

## **Financial Statements**

**For the Year Ended 31 December 2022**



# Australian Croquet Association

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## Australian Croquet Association

### Board Report

31 December 2022

The Board submits the financial report of the Association for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

#### Board Members

The ACA Board for the year 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and Directors' attendance at Board meetings comprised:

Jim Nicholls (Chair)	1 Jan to 31 Dec 2022	13/13
Max Kewish (Deputy chair)	1 Jan to 31 Dec 2022	13/13
Kah Yang Loke (Treasurer)	1 Jan to 31 Dec 2022	7/13
Mary Marsden	1 Jan to 19 Mar 2022	2/3
Alison Sharpe	1 Jan to 19 Mar 2022	2/3
Bernie Pfitzner	1 Jan to 19 Mar 2022	3/3
Barbara Northcott	1 Jan to 31 Dec 2022	12/13
Kerri-Ann Organ	1 Jan to 31 Dec 2022	13/13
Pat Habner	19 Mar to 31 Dec 2022	10/10
Bob Berry	18 May to 18 Jun 2022	2/2

The deficit of the Association for the financial year amounted to (\$203,727) [2021: surplus \$122,613].  
Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board:



Jim Nicholls  
Chair



Kah Yang Loke  
Treasurer

15 March 2023

## Australian Croquet Association

### Statement of Profit or Loss

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Revenue from operations	2	335,802	272,155
Non-monetary resources received	2	12,000	6,000
Other revenue	2	65,763	123,485
	2	<b>413,565</b>	<b>401,640</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Executive Officer and Finance Officer wages		133,872	122,992
Affiliation fees - WCF & WGU		2,078	2,077
Audit fee		1,664	1,584
Bank fee & charges		152	118
Board / governance		7,742	7,693
Depreciation	8	1,254	2,360
Non-monetary resources expenditure		12,000	6,000
Corporate publicity and marketing		6,000	3,000
Insurance		1,200	1,978
International events		6,076	1,039
National events		151,189	74,554
Sundry & office		83,886	45,329
Travel and accommodation – domestic		98,726	10,303
Media streaming - events		30,000	-
Recruitment expenses		14,000	-
Loss on investments		67,453	-
		<b>617,292</b>	<b>279,027</b>
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year		<b>(203,727)</b>	<b>122,613</b>
Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year		<b>724,154</b>	<b>601,541</b>
<b>Retained surplus at the end of the financial year</b>		<b>520,427</b>	<b>724,154</b>

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As At 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	223,017	397,703
Trade and other receivables	6	19,167	3,556
Inventories	7	24,757	7,608
Financial Investments	5	286,100	340,111
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>553,041</b>	<b>748,978</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Plant and equipment	8	5,777	7,031
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>5,777</b>	<b>7,031</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>558,818</b>	<b>756,009</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	9	24,725	14,117
Employee benefits	12	13,666	9,763
Grants in advance	11	-	7,000
Income received in advance	10	-	975
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>38,391</b>	<b>31,855</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>38,391</b>	<b>31,855</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>520,427</b>	<b>724,154</b>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained surplus		520,427	611,843
International Event Fund		-	112,311
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<b>520,427</b>	<b>724,154</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

### 2022

	International Events Fund \$	Retained Surplus \$	Total \$
<b>Balance at 1 January 2022</b>	<b>112,311</b>	<b>611,843</b>	<b>724,154</b>
Allocation to International Event Fund	(112,311)	112,311	-
Deficit for the year	-	(203,727)	(203,727)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2022</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>520,427</b>	<b>520,427</b>

### 2021

	International Events Fund \$	Retained Surplus \$	Total \$
<b>Balance at 1 January 2021</b>	<b>112,311</b>	<b>489,230</b>	<b>601,541</b>
Allocation to International Event Fund	-	-	-
Surplus for the year	-	122,613	122,613
<b>Balance at 31 December 2021</b>	<b>112,311</b>	<b>611,843</b>	<b>724,154</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Australian Croquet Association

### Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Affiliation and event fees		335,802	272,155
Other revenue		77,483	116,588
Interest received		280	12,897
Payments to suppliers and employees		(588,251)	(338,296)
Net cash provided by operating activities	4	<u>(174,686)</u>	<u>63,344</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Payments for plant and equipment		-	(1,234)
Net cash (used in) investing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>(1,234)</u>
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		(174,686)	62,110
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		397,703	335,596
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	3	<u>223,017</u>	<u>397,703</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

**For the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

The financial statements cover the Australian Croquet Association as an individual entity. The Australian Croquet Association is a not-for-profit Association incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory under the *Associations Incorporation Act (ACT) 1991* ('the Act').

### **Basis of Preparation**

In the opinion of the Board, the Association is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial statements who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Act.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, AASB 107 *Statement of Cash Flows*, AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* and AASB 1054 *Australian Additional Disclosures*.

The financial statements, except the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis. All amounts are presented in Australian dollars and prepared under the historical cost convention. Comparatives are consistent with the prior year.

### **1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

#### **(a) Revenue recognition**

Revenue is recognised when it is probable that the economic benefit will flow to the Association and the revenue can be reliably measured. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

##### *Non-monetary resources received*

Parbery Consulting provides a rent free permanent workspace for Association. This includes access to amenities (internet, office supplies, office amenities and printing facilities). This arrangement is in place indefinitely. In return, the Association provides \$7,800 per year sponsorship in prize money towards a national event. This rent free arrangement is valued at the rate paid by the Association for the comparable office space and amenities rented at its former premises. This rent free arrangement is valued at the rate paid by the Association for the comparable office space and amenities rented at its former premises.

#### **(b) Income Tax**

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

#### **(c) Goods and services tax (GST)**

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST. Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

### (d) Inventories

Inventories are measured at the lower of basis and is net of any rebates cost and net realisable value. Cost of inventory is determined using the first-in-first-out and discounts received. Net realisable value is estimated using the most reliable evidence available at the reporting date and inventory is written down through an obsolescence provision if necessary.

### (e) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

### (f) Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

### (g) COVID-19 impact

COVID-19 impacted operations in 2022 through travel restrictions causing the cancellation of events.

## 2 Revenue from Operations

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<i>Revenue from operating activities</i>		
- Affiliation fees	279,040	264,419
- National Events	56,762	7,736
	<b>335,802</b>	<b>272,155</b>
<i>Other revenue</i>		
- Interest revenue	280	12,897
- Trading surplus	12,096	6,606
- Increase in value of investment	-	51,976
- Miscellaneous revenue	8,335	5,377
- Job keeper subsidy	-	15,750
- Cash flow boost	-	-
- Coaching manuals	-	17,816
- Donation received	31,768	13,063
- Distribution income MLC investment	13,284	-
	<b>65,763</b>	<b>123,485</b>
- <i>Non-monetary resources received</i>		
- Rent free office space	12,000	6,000
	<b>413,565</b>	<b>401,640</b>



## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

### 3 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Term deposits	100,000	200,000
Bank balances	123,017	197,703
	<u>223,017</u>	<u>397,703</u>

### 4 Cash Flow Information

#### (a) Reconciliation of cash

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is as follows:		
Cash and cash equivalents	3 223,017	397,703

#### (b) Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	(203,727)	122,613
Non-cash flows in surplus:		
- depreciation	1,254	2,360
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase) in trade and other receivables	(15,611)	(3,253)
- (increase) / decrease in financial assets	54,011	(63,163)
- (increase) in inventories	(17,149)	(6,305)
- increase / (decrease) in income in advance	(975)	975
- (decrease) / increase in grants in advance	(7,000)	7,000
- increase / (decrease) in trade and other payables	10,608	(4,875)
- increase in employee benefits	3,903	7,992
Cashflows from operations	<u>(174,686)</u>	<u>63,344</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

### 5 Financial Investments

The value of the investments of \$286,100 includes a decrease in market value of \$67,453 and interest of \$13,442.

	2022 \$	2021 \$
CURRENT		
BT Investment	134,769	174,499
MLC Investment	151,331	165,612
	<u>286,100</u>	<u>340,111</u>

### 6 Trade and other receivables

	2022 \$	2021 \$
CURRENT		
Trade receivables	19,167	3,556
<b>Total current trade and other receivables</b>	<u>19,167</u>	<u>3,556</u>

The carrying value of trade receivables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short term nature of the balances. GST receivable forms part of GST net payable within Note 10.

### 7 Inventories

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Stock on hand at cost</b>		
Inventories (cost)	24,757	7,608
	<u>24,757</u>	<u>7,608</u>

# Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

## 8 Plant and equipment

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b><i>Croquet Equipment</i></b>		
At cost	20,357	20,357
Accumulated depreciation	(15,322)	(14,315)
Total Croquet Equipment	5,035	6,042
<b><i>Office Equipment</i></b>		
At cost	135	135
Accumulated depreciation	(135)	(135)
Total Office Equipment	-	-
<b><i>Gateball Equipment</i></b>		
At cost	5,076	5,076
Accumulated depreciation	(4,334)	(4,087)
Total Gateball Equipment	742	989
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>5,777</b>	<b>7,031</b>

### Movements in carrying amounts of plant and equipment

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Croquet Equipment \$	Office Equipment \$	Gateball Equipment \$	Total \$
<b>Year ended 31 December 2022</b>				
Balance at the beginning of year	6,042	-	989	7,031
Additions	-	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	(1,007)	-	(247)	(1,254)
<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>5,035</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>5,777</b>
<b>Year ended 31 December 2021</b>				
Balance at the beginning of year	8,057	-	100	8,157
Disposals (all write offs)	-	-	1,234	1,234
Depreciation expense	(2,015)	-	(345)	(2,360)
<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>6,042</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>7,031</b>

## Board Report

31 December 2022

### 9 Trade and Other Payables

	2022 \$	2021 \$
CURRENT		
Trade payables and accruals	2,398	2,372
PAYG and superannuation payable	15,555	11,342
GST net payable	6,772	403
	<u>24,725</u>	<u>14,117</u>

Trade and other payables are unsecured, non-interest bearing and are normally settled within 30 days. The carrying value of trade and other payables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances. GST net payable includes GST receivable.

### 10 Income received in advance

	2022 \$	2021 \$
CURRENT		
Competition entry fees received in advance	-	975
	<u>-</u>	<u>975</u>

### 11 Grants received in advance

	2022 \$	2021 \$
CURRENT		
Australia / Korea Gateball Project grant received in advance	-	7,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>7,000</u>

### 12 Employee Benefits

	2022 \$	2021 \$
CURRENT		
Provision for Annual Leave	13,666	9,763
	<u>13,666</u>	<u>9,763</u>

## **Board Report**

**31 December 2022**

### **13 Contingencies**

In the opinion of the Board, the Association did not have any contingencies at 31 December 2022 (31 December 2021: None).

### **14 Events after the end of the Reporting Period**

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

### **15 Statutory Information**

Principal place of business of the Association is:

Unit 9/65 Tennant St  
FYSHWICK ACT 2609

## Board Report

31 December 2022

### Statement by the Board

*The Board has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.*

In the opinion of the Board the financial report as set out on pages 2 to 15:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Australian Croquet Association as at 31 December 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Australian Croquet Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:



Jim Nicholls  
Chair



Kah Yang Loke  
Treasurer

15 March 2023

## **Board Report**

**31 December 2022**

### **SCOPE OF AUDIT**

We have audited the attached special purpose financial report of Australian Croquet Association for the year ended 31 December 2022 as set out on pages 2 to 15.

The Board is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report and the information it contains and has determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the requirements of the members of the Association on their preparation and presentation. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, and described in Note 1, is appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members and to satisfy the reporting requirements of the *Associations Act*. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for reliance on this audit report or the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

### **AUDIT OPINION**

In our opinion the financial report presents fairly the financial position of the Australian Croquet Association and the results of its operations at 31 December 2022 in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

### **Assurance Matters**

Heather Stewart CA  
Principal

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'H. Stewart', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

Dated: 15 March 2023

**Australian Croquet Association**

## **Board Report**

**31 December 2022**