High Honours for Noel Grant and Helen Worladge

Along with the customary Opening Day celebrations at MCC Croquet Club this year, members and invited guests enjoyed the added pleasure of congratulating two distinguished members -- Noel Grant and Helen Worladge.

Noel Grant in July was awarded France's highest medal of Honour -- the rank of Chevalier in the French Legion of Honour. The 95-year-old Mrs Grant is one of 106 World War II Australian war veterans and the only woman among them-- who were decorated by France this year for services during World War II operations to liberate France. At MCC Croquet Club, she is a Life Member who has held office as Chair, won number of championship titles, was a top pennant player and an esteemed coach. Noel hasn't played croquet for some years now, but she does attend social functions, and she participated in the Running of the First Hoops on Opening Day.

Helen Worladge was awarded an OAM in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to education and disadvantaged youth. Currently she is Program Manager for Boroondara Cares Foundation which provides financial aid to secondary and tertiary students living or studying Boroondara. Helen is an MCC Croquet Section Committee Member and the club's immediate past Chair.

Maggie Ruzza
MCC Croquet Club

Right:
MCC Croquet Club Chair
Graham Fahey presents flowers to Helen Worladge (left) and Noel Grant.

MCC’s Tom Kudelka and Life Member Noel Grant participate in the Running of the First Hoops on Opening Day at MCC

Bill Keddie running the first hoop on opening day at the Victorian Croquet Centre
President’s Report

Hello again.

The new season has started. At the Victorian Croquet Centre, Croquet Victoria opened its season with the usual Opening Day on 5th August. One of our new Life Members, Bill Keddie, ran the first hoop. It was good to see Bill at VCC again, and in good health; he spent so much time there both as a director and a referee in past years.

I also attended Season Openings at Brunswick and Ivanhoe Park, with more to come next month. They are always pleasant events and an opportunity to speak with members who rarely get to VCC.

Later in the month, we had a weekend of Men’s and Women’s Golf Croquet Championships. Congratulations to John van der Touw and Judy Wembridge for winning the events.

These two events are a good lead-in to the ACA Golf Croquet to be held in September in Tasmania. The key event is the Interstate Golf Croquet Championship, where the teams from each state play each other over five days from 23rd to 25th September in Launceston. Victoria is represented by: Kevin Beard, Lester Hughes, Darren McLoughlin, John van der Touw (Captain), Wendy Dickson, Anna Miller (Vice-Captain), Anne Quinn and Judy Wembridge. Reserves are Jim Saunders and Trish Watts. I wish the team well in the defence of the title, and that the WCF Shield returns to VCC after the competition; I know they will give their best efforts.

Before the teams event, there are three ACA Golf Croquet competitions. From 15th to 17th September, Kevin Beard will represent Victoria in Hobart in playing for the Gold Medal. From 18th to 21st September, there will be separate Men’s Championships in Hobart and Women’s Championships in Launceston. Again, I wish our players well.

Scores for these events will be progressively recorded on www.croquetscores.com, so keep an eye on our progress.

Cheers Mike

More Photos from the Norfolk Island Convict Cup

Left: Guard of honour for Pat Smith (Ballarat) after winning the cup with her partner

Below Left: Kathy and Ian Pitt (Beaufort), Pat Smith (Ballarat), Brian Reither (Ballarat), Valmai Hood (Horsham) and Sandra Reither (Ballarat)

Below: Valmai Hood (Horsham) with a soldier guard
Management Report

I regret to report that the Dandenong Croquet Club has closed, due to the City of Greater Dandenong resuming the land and not rebuilding the facilities as there was already another, underused facility, Burden Park CC, in the municipality.

On the good side, however, new clubs have been founded in North Albury (Twin City CC) and Howlong NSW (Howlong Golf Resort CC), both of which are affiliated with NEDCA. Welcome to those clubs and their members. As part of its Risk Minimisation Strategy, Croquet Victoria has entered into a contract with Employsure Pty Ltd to ensure that all employment matters comply with legislation and to cover itself against any possible litigation and its costs.

The Membership database now includes a field to record a member’s year of birth. I encourage all members to complete this field as it will provide Croquet Victoria with the means of generating statistical data in support of grant applications, etc. I emphasise that this data is completely confidential and is password protected, being accessible only by three people; myself as Secretary, Sandra as Administrator and Gareth Bushill, our Webmaster.

All those members under twenty-one years of age should fill in their year of birth as this will entitle them to a 50% reduction in the affiliation fees and levies charged on behalf of Croquet Australia (a $12.50 saving in 2016). U21s will also receive a 50% rebate on entry fees to Croquet Australia events, regardless of whether they are students or working. In accordance with the World Croquet Federation determination, anyone under 21 as at the 31st December will be deemed to be under 21 for the whole of following year. Those members who do not complete the field by 31st December this year will not receive these rebates or benefits.

Jim Clement
Dip Bus (Gov)  FICDA
Honorary Secretary

Australian Golf Croquet Championships

Photos from the recent Singles and Doubles Championships played at VCC.

John van der Touw won the Singles played over 5 days

Anne Quinn and Wendy Dickson won the Doubles, played over 4 days.
Celebrations Run High for 2015-2016 Season at MCC Croquet Club

Tournament photos were taken by MCC’s Liz Duff.

MCC Croquet Club ushered in its 2015/16 season with a lively calendar of well attended and very successful events. Some 80 members and invited guests attended Opening Day on 1 August. Guests included Boroondara Councillor Judith Voce, who represented the Mayor, and members from 10 other croquet clubs in Melbourne’s greater metropolitan area. Opening Day celebrations this year featured a special dimension: Members were able to collectively congratulate two members who recently were distinguished as outstanding Australians. (See related item on Noel Grant and Helen Worlidge.)

MCC’s Annual Association Croquet Open Tournament took off just a few days after Opening Day. The tournament, the first open tournament of the new season on VCA fixtures, drew a total of 49 entrants from MCC and 12 other clubs (Belmont-Geelong, Brighton, Brunswick, Castlemaine, Elsternwick, Essendon, Kew, Monash, Rich River, Ringwood, Sandringham and Williamstown.) Over the eight days of competition Divisions 1 and 2 entrants played 53 matches, and Divisions 3 and 4 entrants played 66 matches.

Tournament Winners and Runners Up were:

Division 1a: Winner Gareth Bushill (Geelong Belmont), Runner Up John van der Touw (MCC)  
Division 1b: Winner Bruce McComb (MCC), Runner Up Graham Fahey (MCC)  
Div 2: Winner Trish Watts (Kew), Runner UP Kevin Berry (MCC)  
Div 3: Winner Harley Johnstone (Sandringham), Runner Up Ian Philpott (MCC)  

MCC Club Chair Graham Fahey said that the tournament was a fantastic start to the new season, adding that competition was spirited and there were many memorable games and moments. Notably in Division 1: Josh Wilson (Brunswick) achieved a straight triple peel (STP), and Chris Grant (Ringwood) achieved two triple peels (TP).

Many MCC members contributed to the success of the tournament, Graham said. He extended special kudos to a core of dedicated supporters who were on the scene most days, if not daily, throughout the tournament, namely: Tournament Manager Tom Kudelka; John van der Tuow, Chief referee, and his referee team (Marie Calthorp, Mike Cohn, Liz Duff, Chris Grant, Brian Foley, Jan Watts); and Margo Kelly and her large catering brigade.

With the new season and spring weather well and truly underway, MCC members, both social and competitive players, have happily resumed more frequent play. Tuesday and Saturday social days draw a good turnout, and coaching and practice are high priorities for pennant players. MCC is fronting 5 pennant teams in all divisions this season.

Maggie Ruzza MCC Croquet Club
**Opening of New Season in Wimmera**

Wimmera croquet season opening 2015-2016 was opened by Alex Thomson from Wimmera Sports Assembly.

It was a good social day and everyone enjoyed themselves. Everyone rugged up for a cold day. There were players from Warracknabeal, Donald, Dimboola, Kalimna Park and Horsham

Winner – Trevor McDonald, Runner up Gary Devlin

Alex Thomson from Wimmera Sports Assembly running the first hoop for Wimmera

Brenda Hunter opened the season for Horsham Croquet Club 2015/2016 season. Her mother also used to play croquet many years ago.

43 people attended from Kalimna Park, Dimboola and Horsham.

3rd Division
1st – Lyn Smith
2nd – Elaine Nichols

2nd Division
1st – Margaret Pope
2nd – Gwen McCartney

1st Division
1st – Shirley Price
2nd – Les Mills

**Valmai Hood**
Promotion Officer
Wimmera CA

Brenda Hunter running the first hoop to open the Horsham season

**Celebrations Run High for 2015-2016 Season at MCC Croquet Club**

Continued from previous page

MCC’s John van der Tuow, Brunswick’s Josh Wilson and Geelong Belmont’s Gareth Bushill

MCC’s Kevin Berry, Referee Chris Grant (Ringwood) and Kew’s Trish Watts. Trish was Division 2 winner, Kevin was runner-up
**Victorian Golf Mens and Womens Championship**

The Championships were held on the weekend of the 22/23rd of August. Cairnlea turned on a couple of very nice days for us to see some wonderful croquet played in great spirit. Although numbers were down everyone enjoyed the tournament.

Results;

Men:
- W. John van der Touw. (Monash)
- RU. Eric Miller (G/Belmont)

Women:
- W. Judy Wembridge. (Bairnsdale)
- RU. Anna Miller (G/Belmont)

Plate:
- W. Chas Quinn (Yarrawonga)
- RU. Kevin Beard (Essendon)

Thank you to the Tournament referee, and his band of helpers for giving of their time and expertise.

Lorraine Gutcher,
Tournament Manager.

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**Winners are Grinners**

**but**

**Losers can be Grinners too**

Shepparton CC has entered a GC Pennant team for the first time and these happy ladies played the first match of the season on their home courts.

The team registered a respectable loss but enjoyed the experience so much they felt like winners. Many thanks to the Kyabram club who were so helpful and so patient.

**June Hoge** Shepparton CC

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*L to R: Captain Margaret Gleeson, June Hoge, Teresa Hunt and Carol Thorne*
Brighton Croquet Club held its Season Opening

The Brighton Croquet Club held its Season Opening Meeting on Wednesday, August 19 with the Mayor of Bayside, Felicity Frederico invited to formally open the season by running a hoop on one of the lawns.

The pleasant winter’s day started with friendly games of croquet between club members and guests from neighbouring croquet clubs. When the Mayor arrived shortly before midday, she was greeted by the President, Mrs. Daphne Alcorn who then showed her the recently built gazebo at the Club, the construction of which had been financed by a fund from Bayside Council.

The formal part of the meeting then started with the raising of the Australian flag and the singing of the national anthem by the assembled company. The Mayor was then asked to say a few words. She talked briefly about the importance of clubs like ours to community life in Bayside.

A light lunch, provided by members of the Brighton Croquet Club, was then served and enjoyed by all present. At its conclusion the Mayor was asked to say a few words about activities of the Bayside Council. She talked about efforts by the Council to reduce the shortage in sporting facilities available to females compared to males in the municipality and also of the increasing problem of providing adequate parking facilities.

This concluded the formal business of the day. Some stayed on for more friendly games of croquet.

George Karoly Brighton CC

Gippsland Croquet Association

In July a Gippstar Award Nomination form was forwarded for our G.C.A. Association Regional Championship Team, who were the runner-up’s to Geelong at Rich River in April 2015. The Presentation Evening was held in Morwell on the 5th August.

I am proud & thrilled to announce our Gippsland Team of Lewis Mercer, Traralgon who came 3rd in Section 1, Sandra Birch, Leongatha who Won Section 2, Margaret Fraser, Traralgon who Won Section 3 & Gary Prescott, Bairnsdale Runner-up in Section 4, received this Lovely Award & Trophy inscribed as follows -

Live the Dream
Gippstar Awards
Team of the Year
2014/15
Gippsland
Regional
Croquet
Association
Team
Gippsland Sports Academy

We are all very proud of our Association Croquet Team & Winning this Award is a Great Achievement.

Joy Davis
Games for all Levels Scheduled at VCC

Welcome to the new season. The VCA had scheduled a large program of events (for all levels) at VCC Cairnlea. We encourage players in all forms of malletsports to consider coming along to an event or two during the year. You will be made most welcome.

Events cover all ranges of ability. There are few open events which are not played in divisions. In other words in most events we conduct you will be playing against players of similar ability. We aim to make the events as competitive as possible. Obviously the Victorian and Australian Championships in both Association and Golf Croquet are level play and pit players of all levels against each other. There is much to be learnt and enjoyed in these events as well. Most of the other events will be graded into divisions according to the entry numbers.

We do try to accommodate your personal circumstances. Where possible we will schedule games to suit players with particular needs. Our aim is to make Cairnlea friendly and welcoming to encourage new players test their developing skills against players from around the state. We are so fortunate to have such an excellent facility where we can have large numbers playing on excellent courts and with great facilities.

A summary of events is always on the back page of each Malletsports Vic magazine and copies of the Tournament schedule are available from your club. The VCA website will also give you a very comprehensive oversight of all activities around the state.

During September the Golf Croquet Australian Championships will be held in Launceston and Hobart. Interested players can keep up with the progress of the events on croquetscores.com.

The Association Divisional Championships will be held at Cairnlea on Tuesday (15th) and Wednesday (16th) September. This event in played in 4 divisions and you are assured of two days of good croquet.

During October we host the ACA President’s 8s - (Association) - an elite selection event. Newcomers can be assured of seeing some excellent croquet with the best players in Australia competing.

A very interesting and popular event in October is the Seniors event. All players who have attained their 60th birthday are eligible to enter!!! Both Association and Golf Croquet are to be played over the two days - Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st. You can’t play both games (sadly).

During November there are many events scheduled and one of the most interesting of them is to be played at Deniliquin - The ACA Golf Croquet Handicap Championships from Nov 1 - 6. Cairnlea plays host to a number of events - Association Men’s and Women’s Championships; Association Handicap Championships and the Victoria Golf Croquet Doubles and Singles Handicap Championships.

Among all these events I am sure you will find one or two that might pique your interest. Cairnlea is your croquet centre - and it was designed to cater for players at all levels in both games. Please support the events that you feel comfortable in playing. You will be made most welcome.

If you have any queries - or suggestions - please contact me on 0424 362 935 or email jfgrieve@netspace.net.au

John Grieve Tournaments and Fixtures Committee

Bendigo Festival of Croquet

The NDCA hosted their first Bendigo Festival of Croquet during August. You will read a report on the results but I want to pay tribute to the excellent organisation and wonderful spirit of the event. I played in the Golf Croquet event and unfortunately could not stay over the weekend for the Association event. The courts were great - using the local tennis courts there were 8 courts for play. The condition of the courts was very good. The facilities were excellent and the organisation was first class.

Bill Humphreys and Christine Effect did a fabulous job in running the events. There were 36 players in the GC event and 30 Association players. The event ran very smoothly and the catering was typical of country croquet - in other words excellent!!!

The NDCA are to be congratulated on running the event and all who played will be looking forward to 2016 for another chance to enjoy such a hospitable event.

Croquet is alive and well!!!

John Grieve President Williamstown CC
**VALE - Peter Gooding 1949-2015**

Peter Gooding was the initial and current President of the Dimboola Croquet Club, following its formation in early 2013 with the assistance of Val Brown and the Kalimna Park Croquet Club from Horsham.

Peter had retired to Dimboola, where he had spent most of his life, after several years working and living in the Bendigo area. He was very actively engaged in the community and croquet became a special passion. New members were recruited through Peter’s enthusiasm and encouragement. The Club flourished, fielding two pennant teams last season, and maintained a strong and enjoyable social program emphasising the development of the skills of a growing membership of complete novices. Peter’s enthusiasm and encouragement were a major factor in the success of the new club.

The continuing enjoyment of the sport by a growing club will be a fitting legacy of the efforts of the foundation President, Peter Gooding.

Jo Donnelly Secretary Dimboola CC

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**Ballarat Western’s Bracher Competition Final**

Members of Ballarat Western CC have competed in the Bracher Competition for the third consecutive year. On the death of Geoff Bracher, a member at Western, his family set up a perpetual trophy in his honour. Club members play handicap singles over approximately six week period with Bracher family members attending the final play off and presentation.

The last two players remaining undefeated following two months of games were Judy Brown and Dennis Newman. After Dennis won the competition 7/1 he scolded Judy for not using her extra turns which she confessed to having forgotten all about!

Unfortunately the extra cold weather prolonged the competition this year and the Bracher family were unable to attend the final day. Geoff’s son Chris wrote a speech read out by club President Denie Etherson in which he congratulated the players and the eventual winner. Following the presentation club members enjoyed morning tea before heading back outside for another game.

Rosalie Newman Ballarat Western CC

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**POTTER MALLETS**

Making croquet mallets is my hobby. Every mallet is handcrafted from local woods to release its natural beauty of grain, texture and colour. All mallets are therefore individual and unique. Most are of redgum (milled in 1888), others of sycamore, elm, black wattle, etc. Rectangular or round block Handles are of Tas Oak with a choice in variety of grips etc.

**ALL MALLETS - $130**

All enquiries to the Mallet Man

Terry F Potter
6 Burns St, SPRING GULLY, Vic 3550
ph, 03 5443 1250, or, pottemallets@gmail.com

Every mallet sold means I can then enjoy making another, and I will also donate $10 to the Fred Hollows Foundation.

p&p $20 Vic, $25 interstate, free post for second mallet.

email for latest brochure
**Scheduling Events**

I am often asked about the schedule we prepare for the VCA events. There is no easy way to explain the complexity of what we are faced with. Club events, Victorian Championships, ACA events, Trans-Tasman competition and World Croquet events all tie into the schedule.

We are faced with an increasingly crowded calendar to be fitted into a small window of available time slots. Inevitably there will be clashes. We do try to avoid clashes in club events with adjoining clubs and even within regions and neighbouring areas. This is not always possible but the attempt is made!!

It is nigh impossible to avoid clashes between club tournaments and events at Cairnlea. We also have to factor in use of Cairnlea for ACA events. And of course as Golf Croquet continues to grow in popularity there is an ever-increasing pressure on availability at Cairnlea.

Clubs have been very helpful in advising us early of their preferred dates. The more time we have to prepare the calendar the less likely we are to make mistakes.

I have privately expressed my admiration for the tremendous work done by Brian Reither over many years in making this program work. Now that I have done my first (and not without his much-needed help!!) I fully comprehend the complexities he was faced with over a long period of time.

We are always looking for help - if you have any suggestions as to how we can improve the program for the benefit of the players please contact me. The program for this year is available on the VCA website and all clubs have received copies of the program (yellow sheet). If you are unable to get a copy please contact me and I will arrange for one to be sent to you by email or post.

I look forward to meeting up with you at tournaments around the state and at Cairnlea in the coming season.

**John Grieve** Tournament and fixtures committee
0424 362 935
jfgrieve@netspace.net.au

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**The Gippsland Croquet Association Annual Open AC Singles Tournament**

The Gippsland Croquet Association annual open association croquet singles tournament was played at Sale on 15th and 16th August. Although the number of entries was low, the quality of the croquet was high. This was helped by the fine weather on both days.

Colin Crawford and Ian McConachie, both from Traralgon were winner and runner-up respectively in Section 1. Colin must enjoy playing on the Sale courts as he rarely leaves them without a trophy.

Sale too had a "double". In Section 2 local players headed the list. The winner was Ian Wilson and Len Clissold was runner-up. Ian and Len are relatively new to association croquet but they showed they already have considerable skills in this form of the game.

Wilma Freeman managed the tournament with her usual quiet efficiency. GCA president, David Mann presented the prizes and thanked Sale for hosting this enjoyable event.

**Phillip Clerici** Sale CC

*Left to right: Ian McConachie, Colin Crawford, Ian Wilson, Len Clissold.*
Lakes Entrance CC First Ever Singles Tournament

Lakes Entrance Croquet Club held their first ever Singles Tournament in June at their beautiful new courts. It was a very successful tournament with members from all over Gippsland and from further afield in Victoria. The weather was very kind to us, although a bit chilly. Everyone enjoyed themselves and all enjoyed the wonderful food for morning and afternoon tea, plus the very warm soups on both days.

The winner of the first section was Paul Andrews of Wonthaggi. Second section was won by Anthony Corbett of Bairnsdale and Clark Maize of Orbost won the third section.

The club has been honoured and excited by having one of their members entered in the Gippsstar Sports Awards, held at a presentation night in Traralgon on 5th August. The category the club entered was for a 10 year volunteer achiever award, and our President Elaine Hancock was nominated by the secretary of the club and Elaine won the award. Elaine was very excited but also amazed that she was nominated. I am sure everyone agrees she was a worthy person to receive this award. Elaine has worked tirelessly in many aspects of croquet and for the club and also with the local Council over the ten years, to achieve these wonderful courts. She was very quick to point out that she had many helpers during this time.

The club is now working towards extending the club house in the near future, so the hard work begins again. The clubhouse was meant to be larger but due to limited funds by the council the room was cut short, but we are working on it.

Everyone will know when it happens.

Our next tournament is doubles in September.

Barb Henwood Secretary LECC

B&DCA Season Opening

Ballarat and District Croquet Association held their Opening Day on Saturday in fine and mild weather. Members from Alexandra Ararat, Alexandra Ballarat, Ballarat Western and Beaufort enjoyed a day of Association and Golf croquet. At the end of the lunch break Brian Reither ran the first hoop to start the new season.

Everyone enjoyed a fine afternoon tea at the end of the day. Ellen Neil won the raffle.

Rosalie Newman Ballarat Western CC

VCA Life Member Brian Reither has the honour of running the First Hoop!
### Upcoming Events at Victorian Croquet Centre

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<td>ACA Gateball Championships</td>
<td>Brisbane</td>
<td>John Grieve</td>
<td>042 362935</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jfgrieve@netspace.net.au">jfgrieve@netspace.net.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VCA Association - Divisional Championships: range -3 to 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>ACA GC ISS &amp; Singles Championships</td>
<td>Launceston</td>
<td>John Grieve</td>
<td>042 362935</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jfgrieve@netspace.net.au">jfgrieve@netspace.net.au</a></td>
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<td>Nov</td>
<td>1-6 ACA GC Handicap Championships</td>
<td>Deniliquin</td>
<td>Margaret Russell</td>
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### Association Tournaments around the State

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<td>Sept</td>
<td>11-13</td>
<td>Brighton</td>
<td>11 to 20</td>
<td>Leslie Cavalier</td>
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<td>28-30</td>
<td>Kalimna Park</td>
<td>-3 to 20</td>
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<td>17-18</td>
<td>Boort</td>
<td>-3 to 20</td>
<td>Ian Potter</td>
<td>5455 2774</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19-20</td>
<td>Shepparton</td>
<td>10 to 20</td>
<td>Sue van Lunenburg</td>
<td>5798 9563</td>
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<td>24-25</td>
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<td>29-1</td>
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<td>31-1</td>
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### Golf Croquet Tournaments around the State

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<td>12th</td>
<td>MVCA Boort</td>
<td>0 - 5, 6 - 9, 10 - 12, Weekend players welcome</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19-20</td>
<td>Lakes Entrance Doubles</td>
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<td>25-26</td>
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<td>Hamish Menzies</td>
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<td>28th</td>
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<td>David )</td>
<td>5480 0465</td>
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<td>29th</td>
<td>Rich River; range 6-8</td>
<td>Hocking )</td>
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<td>Warragul Handicap Doubles</td>
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<td>13-15</td>
<td>Quarry Hill; range 0 to 12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Max Elgin</td>
<td>5442 3573</td>
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<td>17-18</td>
<td>Ballarat &amp; DCA; range 0 to 12</td>
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<td>Nancy Hatherell</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lorraine Guter</td>
<td>5134 4990</td>
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<td>28-30</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Val Hanna</td>
<td>5382 4379</td>
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<td>Nov</td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Terang; range 0 to 12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Margaret Primmer</td>
<td>5592 2218</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Submissions for the Oct edition to be in by 25th Sept please.