



Good news is worth spreading! The Stats of Chelsea Williams – The Story So Far

By Janelle Morris

2026 has been a standout year for Chelsea – current Women's Ranking No. 2 in Victoria, No. 4 in Australia and No. 81 in the World – translating in the largest grade change in the world this year – rising from handicap 5 to 1 and only a dozen index points away from a zero. [Largest Grade Change for 2026](#) - impressive [Chelsea Williams](#)

2026 Achievements

- Selectors Tournament: Winner
- Presidents 8s (4th Eight): Winner
- Tasmania Women's Open Tournament: Runner-up
- Queensland Women's Open: Winner

Where It All Began

Chelsea's croquet story began in 2018 at the Odd Sox Doubles Tournament, playing off a handicap 18 and partnering with her now-husband, Jack Williams. The pair won the event, but croquet remained an occasional pursuit as Chelsea balanced tournaments with her first sporting passion – horses and competition riding.

Due to her success in a few further tournaments, Eric Miller reassessed her to a handicap 8, then following Pennant, she progressed to a handicap 6. But it wasn't until September 2024, after marriage, managing two little humans and supporting Jack's own rise through the ranks, that Chelsea returned to golf croquet with renewed focus and a clear goal: selection in a Golf Croquet State Team for Victoria to play in Victoria in the 2026 Interstate Shield scheduled to be held at the Victoria Croquet Centre.

Association Croquet: The Turning Point

Believing that mastering Association Croquet would sharpen her Golf Croquet accuracy, Chelsea sought guidance from Cherry and Kevin Bluff at Belmont Croquet Club. She entered the Geelong Association Croquet Open (Division 4) on a handicap 20 and won convincingly. As potential was obvious, Clarie Bassett provided ongoing coaching as Chelsea continued winning AC events throughout the year.

By December 2025, now on a handicap 12, her focus shifted back to golf croquet.

Chelsea credits her improvement to the interplay between the two codes:

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marketing@croquetvic.asn.au

**Croquet Victoria Patron
Her Excellency Professor the
Honourable Margaret Gardner AC
Governor of Victoria**

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- **Association Croquet** strengthened her control, angles and mathematical precision
- **Golf Croquet** gave her confidence to attempt long, bold hoop shots and precision roquets

She also acknowledges the significant influence of Shane Downie, the GC State Squad and Team Coach.

A Family Effort

Behind Chelsea's achievements lies a story of partnership. Jack stepped back from golf croquet for eighteen months, aside from representing Victoria at the 2025 Interstate Shield in Newcastle – to care for their children and drive Chelsea to weekly AC sessions after she temporarily lost her licence for medical reasons. His support allowed Chelsea to step forward. Now they can both continue conquering croquet!

Looking Ahead

Chelsea has achieved her goal of State Team selection and now intends to compete in both Association and Golf Croquet tournaments. Her determination, rapid rise and willingness to learn make her one of Victoria's most exciting players to watch.

A remarkable journey – and one that is far from finished.

The Australia Carnival of Croquet – a look back by Croquet Victoria!

With the Carnival now completed and the trophies decided, it's an ideal moment to pause and reflect on the nine days that was. To capture the Victorian perspective, I invited three key voices — **Kate Patrick**, President of Croquet Victoria; **Claire Keating**, Captain of the Victoria Interstate Shield Team; and **Damien Hadfield**, member of the Fixtures and Tournaments Sub-committee and Livestream Commentator – to share their thoughts.

Their articulate and insightful reflections speak for themselves, leaving little need for further commentary from me.

Claire Keating...

In 2025, we were the first Victorian team to ever finish last. At that final dinner, we set the intention to be the first team to go from last to first in one year.

It took lots of practice, support, coaching – really important to get our doubles' combinations working well!

We wanted to play for each other, lift each other up and leave absolutely everything out on the court – one team!

We knew how important that first day against NSW was to set the standard for how we wanted to perform. That day set us up, so that winning the ISS was in our grasp.

Throughout the tests, it was a wonderful team effort. Not everyone played their best all the time, but everyone contributed when it was needed, to get across the line.

The depth of all the State teams has improved so much, there were many close matches and tests and every day was a challenge

It was lovely to have all the teams together at Cairnlea and I felt very proud of how Victoria hosted the competition. Especially glad of our gleaming roof!

Very grateful for:

-  Croquet Australia – for putting on the event;
-  Croquet Victoria – hosting and support for the team;
-  Selectors – for their time and effort in picking the squad and the team, especially Kaye Molyneux as Chair;
-  Fixtures and Tournaments Subcommittee – Damien Hadfield, Janet Dickinson, Kevin Beard – all of whom, did a fabulous job;
-  Sponsors – Quest Watergardens, Transforma Mallets and the State Government of Victoria;
-  Livestreaming – especially, the State Government who offered funding, we can all re-live some great moments;
-  All Volunteers who helped make the whole event happen;
-  State Squad – especially Janine Sisson and Phill Shattock who trained with the team on a number of occasions;
-  Julie Beasley as Team Manager (looking forward to seeing a briefcase and more clipboard action next year!) to help organise things and take pressure off the Captain and Vice-Captain;
-  Coach – Shane Downie who was very dedicated;
-  Vice-Captain – Jack Williams – a leader both on and off the courts;
-  All the team members who trusted in each other and themselves to bring home the ISS Number 10 for Victoria – Go Vics. Grip It and Rip It!

Damien Hadfield...

The 2026 Golf Croquet Open Events were 18 months in the planning. Victoria is very lucky to have the Victoria Croquet Centre with its 12 courts at Cairnlea, that was able to host the Women's and Men's Open Finals, Interstate Shield and associated functions.

We were also fortunate to be supported by nearby clubs at Williamstown, Essendon and Brunswick. Their picturesque venues and hospitality were greatly appreciated by entrants who included many of the country's top players.

A special shoutout too, to Belmont and Ballarat Clubs for making their venues available. These were ultimately not required due to a lower number than expected of Victorian players entering.

Those who did enter performed well, generally dropping a handicap after taking some big scalps. These events are a great opportunity to play against and learn from top players, so I would recommend up and coming players to take these opportunities.

Livestreaming of many of the days are up over 2,000 views and still rising. If you haven't already, check then out at

www.youtube.com/@CroquetVictoria1/videos

Kate Patrick...

Every six years, Croquet Victoria takes its turn as host of the annual national Interstate Shield series of events. It's a wonderful opportunity for players from across Australia to meet and compete, and we're lucky to have the Victorian Croquet Centre where we can host all the games of the Shield itself.

Many competitors were involved: six represented their states in the Gold Medal; 64 participated in the Men's and Women's singles championships; and 60 were involved in the ISS, in teams of ten (five men and five women). A day's competition in the ISS involves three Tests, with at least 48 players and twenty games played in each Test – sixty games per day to be arranged and recorded. A big task in itself.

Croquet Victoria's organising group, led by Damien Hadfield, Janet Dickenson and Kevin Beard spent many months preparing for the events, with help from dozens of members across many, many other tasks. Including coordinating, liaising with satellite clubs, recruiting helpers at all the venues, getting First Aiders trained, preparing the courts, obtaining sponsorship, publicity, officiating, documenting, staffing the bar, setting up welcome events and presentations, inviting distinguished guests, live streaming and commentating.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed, including our sponsors (Quest Watergardens, Transforma Mallets and the State Government of Victoria). And our videographer Sam Gumbrell – over the eleven long days of competition. Sam definitely went above and beyond. And congratulations to our Victorian team on their success!

YouTube livestreaming links

Sample of some of the croquet live streaming

days to look for:

See link below.



Random extracts of comments from keen followers on the live streaming



If you missed any of the livestreaming events, you can go back and view the event or catch the high lights reels.

On You Tube

<https://www.youtube.com/@CroquetVictoria/videos>

Great live streaming and commentating.

Hello everyone that helps out to get the 12 courts ready for comp. You all deserve more than just thanks. Nice to see live streaming for the Gold Medal event.

Well, done to Croquet Victoria for providing a great livestream of the Gold Medal with expert commentary to keep us engaged in the action great highlights package from the best moments on Day 1

Good morning all from Tauranga New Zealand.

just letting you know that I am living it so much for the people who can not get there to see all the games and terms. come on Tasmania do your best.

Watching every day since the first day of the Gold/Silver medals the filming and commentary have been fantastic. Thanks, from Hobart.

Watching from troutville, va usa

Well, done to all the commentators and the cameraman the past week or so as well as the live stream organisers.

We all see it differently but lots of lost opportunities, makes the live stream useful for future coaching scenarios

Great commentary Paul. All the best to the WA side. We have been watching WAY too much croquet lately... but it has been wonderful to watch.

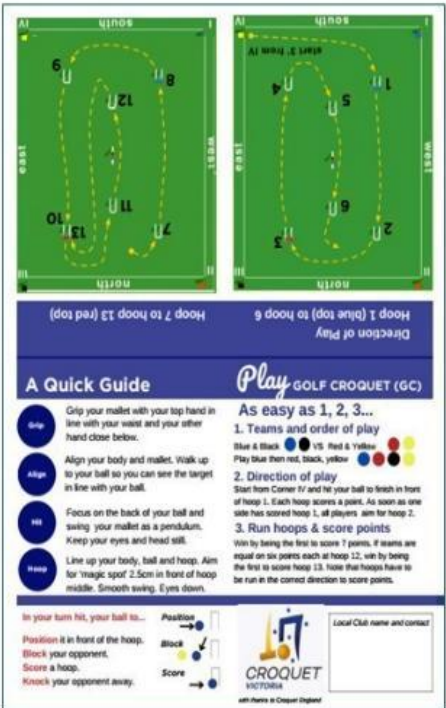
I've been thoroughly enjoying the coverage and commentary over the past few days. I knew very little about GC but am following a WA player. Thanks, commentators, for your helpful explanations

Dear Croquet Reader,

For this edition, the Marketing and Publicity Sub-committee is trialling a new approach — combining the Publicity Newsletter with a possible revival of *Mallet News*, which ceased publication when an editor was no longer available.

We warmly welcome your feedback, suggestions for content and submission of interesting articles. Your contributions will help determine the ongoing viability of this publication and ensure it continues to reflect the breadth and energy of croquet across Victoria.

Marketing and Publicity Materials available



A Quick Guide

Play GOLF CROQUET (GC)

As easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Teams and order of play
Blue & Black VS Red & Yellow
Play blue then red, black, yellow
2. Direction of play
Start from Corner 11 and hit your ball to finish in front of hoop 1. Each hoop scores a point. As soon as one side has scored hoop 1, all players aim for hoop 2.
3. Run hoops & score points
Win by being the first to score 7 points. If teams are equal on six points each at hoop 12, win by being the first to score hoop 13. Note that hoops have to be run in the correct direction to score points.

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Position
Block
Score

Local Club name and contact

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Item/Description	Quantity	Price per item	Postage & Packaging (if posted)	Sub-total
Croquet Victoria Trifold Leaflets		FREE	n/a	
Croquet Victoria bookmarks		FREE	n/a	
Bumper stickers Croquet: the next big hit		\$3.00	Postage included in price per item	
Pens with stylus		\$3.00 each	Ask for postage	
A Quick Guide to Croquet Trifold		Free	n/a	

Email: marketing@croquetvic.asn.au

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MAC ROB WATCH PARTY at MCC

The boys are back from the UK! While the Australian team may not have had the result they were hoping for, both Lachlan and Greg thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were very appreciative of the opportunity to represent Australia. It was certainly a memorable experience, and hopefully there will be better luck next time!

Team England ultimately took out the MacRobertson Shield. To celebrate the event and show our support for Lachlan, Greg and the Australian team, we held a watch party at Glen St on Friday 7 August.

Unfortunately, the livestream didn't include any of the Australian games, but that certainly didn't dampen the spirits, and a great night was had by all who attended.

A big thank you to everyone who came along and, of course, to those who contributed food to share.

It was a lovely evening and a great way to support our Australian representatives!

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Contribution MCC Croquet Club Newsletter



Transforma
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Croquet Victoria

acknowledges and thanks our
partners in supporting our
livestreaming



Club Secretaries

The draft Strategic Plan will be distributed in the near future.

We are keen to receive your feedback before the final draft of the Strategic Plan is tabled for adoption at the December Council Meeting.

Please look out for that email and discuss the draft with your club members

Club Profile | August 2026

Colac Croquet Club

WEBSITE | colacmalletsports/home

CONTACT | [0418364745](tel:0418364745)



People Players and Program

- Our club was established in 1923, over 100 years and still going strong.
- At the moment, we have about 36 members.
- All our members can play Golf with about eight able to play Association and Ricochet.
- We don't have a qualified coach, just a lot of players with great knowledge of the game.
- Scheduled play is Thursday and Saturday mornings as well as Tuesday afternoons.
- Our Golf Social day is well represented with full courts
- We have two A greens, quite often we play on a B green to accommodate numbers and members with restricted mobility. No lights.

How we attract new members

- Personal contacts
- Hosting other local clubs,
- Media coverage in our local paper

Club achievements

- We have attracted eight new members in recent months.
- Acciona (Mount Gellibrand Wind Farm) has provided us with grants to buy four sets of Quadway hoops.

A fun fact: We introduced Extreme Croquet on an old tennis court which was very rough.



This is what makes our Club tick...

- The club is strong because of its members, quality and very social players.
- Often you will hear a lot of laughter and friendly banter on the greens
- We engage with coaches from other clubs to come in and help.



Our key aim for the future

Our key aim is to continue to grow and have greens fit for tournament play

Live Streaming behind the scenes



Commentary

Team & Videographer

Our thanks to all those who engaged us with their expert comments and to the amazing Sam Gumbrell behind the camera controls for his long days – a big thank you.



Social Media - Facebook/You Tube Stats

Audience overview

1,541 Total followers ⓘ
+1.2% from previous 28 days

Croquet Australia Men's/Women's 2026 | Day 3



Croquet Victoria
444 subscribers

Analytics

Edit video

All views

Reels

Posts

Stories

Last 28 days: 15 Aug-1

100,294 ↑ 58%
Views ⓘ

30 ↑ 150%
3-second views ⓘ

2 ↑ 100%
1-minute views ⓘ