



CROQUET VICTORIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026

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VICSPORT

Annual Report 2025/2026

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The Victorian Croquet Association Inc. – Croquet Victoria

Supporting members to play and enjoy the sport of croquet

Croquet Victoria (formally The Victorian Croquet Association Inc.), is a not-for profit, volunteer State Sporting Association. Our target participants are students, people of working age and retirees, both men and women, who wish to play croquet.

Croquet is a non-contact sport which involves hitting a stationary ball, not a moving ball, and where members can choose to play socially or competitively. Membership is very affordable, men and women play with and against each other, and participants have four versions of the game that can be easily mastered. Croquet Victoria aims to grow croquet, updating its image and developing the resources and capabilities available to members.

Croquet Victoria has a federated structure – it is an association of regional associations. Currently it provides services for 3184 individual members belonging to 86 clubs in 14 Regional Associations, throughout Victoria and in southern NSW.

It is governed by its State Council, consisting of 14 Regional Directors and 9 Committee of Management Directors - some Directors hold both roles, so in 2025/26 there were actually 19 members of Council. Council members and appointed officers are all volunteers. They are mostly retirees with experience in business, the professions, club and regional administration.

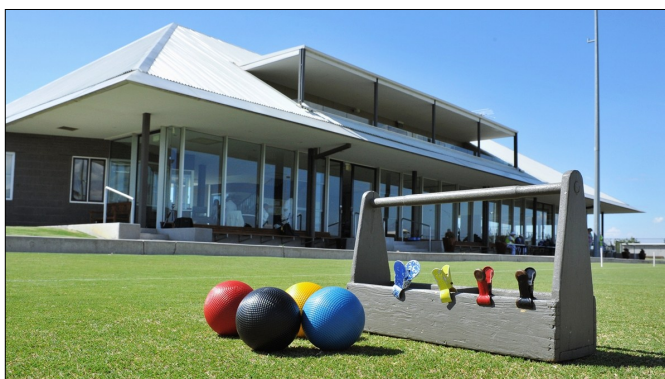
A working group has been considering the constitution and structure of Croquet Victoria, and recommended in April 2025 that Council trial monthly meetings, in place of meeting bi-monthly alternately with the Committee of Management. In December Directors decided to continue meeting monthly, which they agreed was giving them a better oversight of the organisation and was helping them build a collective approach.

Council is supported by eleven sub-committees and five formally constituted working groups, which in the past year involved almost all Directors and 28 members who were not Directors. In addition, Croquet Victoria currently has 19 appointed officers – 11 state level coordinators and 8 assistant coordinators.

Via its Council, committees and appointed officers, Croquet Victoria provides services to members which include:

- pursuing a strategic plan to continue and grow the sport and the organisation
- training and accrediting coaches and referees
- organising tournaments and supporting tournament managers
- maintaining a handicap system and training handicappers
- communicating with members via clubs and regions, and through a monthly *Publicity Newsletter* and social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the Croquet Victoria website)
- providing publicity resources and support
- developing and implementing policies to ensure member protection and effective business systems
- applying for and running externally funded projects that develop the sport

The individuals and committees that provide services on behalf of Croquet Victoria are required to report to the State Council annually. This document consolidates their reports. It also includes reports from the President and the Secretary.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT: *Kate Patrick*

Membership

Formal membership of Croquet Victoria was 3184 at the date of preparing this report. It has been trending steadily upwards since the end of COVID.

Strategic targets

Key targets in the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan included

maintenance of good governance and financial management

- more engagement with working age players and with juniors
- greater participation in competition
- training of more competition officials, to ensure that every club has a coach and a referee in each of the croquet codes they play

We have made progress in some of these areas, but it looks as if we will fall short of our targets for recruiting younger players and training more officials. In 2026 we are organising to consult members and clubs about the priorities for our new Strategic Plan for the five years from 2027, starting with roadshows across the regions.

Gender equity and inclusion

Council continues to satisfy government requirements for the participation of women as Directors, with about 60% women and 40% men. Women are still in the minority on our sub-committees and working groups, and most appointed officer positions are occupied by men. Over 2025, several clubs advertised their support for players living with disability.

We are working towards action plans on gender equity, First Nations, and accessibility, to be in place by February 2027 as required by the Victorian State Government.

Website, social media and RevSport

Thanks to Gareth Bushill for his work preparing the legacy section of the Croquet Vic website so that we could retain and continue to update valued information past the moment when we transferred to the RevSport platform.

Croquet is also promoted via our Facebook page, which has continued to flourish, recently reaching a new high of over 1400 followers.

RevSport was a regular item on Council's agenda throughout 2025, and in mid-2025 we implemented the RevSport platform. Clubs have found implementation difficult, and have been frustrated by the absence of information which in the past was readily available on club websites. The Secretary has provided ongoing support to clubs, and a session on RevSport is being included in the current suite of roadshows.

Competition

Our state Association Croquet team was pleased to bring home the 2025 Eire Cup.

2025 saw the beginning of our planning for the 2026 Interstate Shield along with the Gold and Silver Medals and the Men's and Women's Golf Croquet Championships, which are to be hosted by Victoria.

We also put time into discussing arrangements to support the Golf Croquet Regionals competition.

Recognition

In 2025, Croquet Victoria clubs continued to award Heritage Badges to members who have made an outstanding contribution to the club. Some clubs have converted these badges into a perpetual trophy so that a new recipient of a Heritage Award can be appointed every year.

The 2025 Annual General Meeting appointed two new Life Members: Wilma Freeman (Sale) and Brian Foley (Sandringham). At the June Council meeting which followed, Sarina Cevaal-Hewitt was presented with the President's Service Award.

At the November Council meeting, Jim Clement's death was marked by a minute's silence. Jim held leading positions in Croquet Victoria and Croquet Australia, including six years as Secretary and six years as President of Croquet Victoria.

Constitution

In April 2025, on the recommendation of the Constitution working group, Council began a trial suspension of Committee of Management meetings, with Council meeting every month, rather than every second month with CoM meetings in the intervening months. In December Council discussed the impact of this change. It was agreed that it had been positive, streamlining decision making and eliminating double handling. Council decided to continue to meet monthly, usually on a Monday evening, from February through December.

The Constitution working group is now considering the structure of Croquet Victoria, including the relationship between individual members, the clubs and the regions.

Workings of Council and state appointed officers

During 2024 the Croquet Victoria Council comprised nineteen Directors. One position was vacant and three Directors held two positions.

A new Health and Safety subcommittee commenced work during the year, and terms of reference were approved for a new Risk Management subcommittee. This brings the number of subcommittees to eleven; in addition we had five formal working groups. Almost all Directors were involved in at least one subcommittee or working group, along with 28 members who were not Directors.

In addition, Council approved the appointment of assistants to most of our appointed officer and elected office-bearer positions, to provide support and assist with succession planning. Most of these assistant positions have now been filled for the period up to June 2026.

Apart from the issues mentioned elsewhere in this report, I note that discussion at Council meetings has included:

- Enhancing arrangements for competition, for instance the possibility of a state-wide competition between the club teams winning their local GC inter-club Pennants
- Encouraging strategic initiatives at club and regional level via Development Initiative grants to clubs
- Establishing arrangements for livestreaming
- Managing Council business, for instance reminders about Director training; submission of committee minutes; updating of the Council Manual
- New and amended policies in relation to Selection, Investment, Adverse Playing Conditions, Financial Delegations, Procurement
- Forward planning: outcomes of the current Strategic Plan and processes for developing a new Strategic Plan for the period 2027 – 2031.

Matters being tackled by the subcommittees and working groups included:

- Policy development and review – this was undertaken by several committees
- Development of a risk matrix, including agreement on responsibility for mitigation
- Options for developing live streaming of croquet events at the Victorian Croquet Centre and elsewhere
- Redesign of publicity material
- Support for clubs seeking to expand their membership
- Funding of strategic initiatives at club level
- Succession planning for positions of responsibility within Croquet Victoria, including office-bearers at Council level and appointed officer positions
- Management of Croquet Victoria's finances, including the annual budget, and investments
- Management of the government-funded Together More Active program, including workshops on handicapping, and the Player Development Workshops which have

- now reached hundreds of players at clubs around the Croquet Victoria area
- Regular discussion of recent and forthcoming State tournaments to ensure that they run as smoothly as possible
- Selection of players for squads, selectors' competitions and state teams; arrangements for elite coaching
- Management of health and safety issues by clubs and by the Victorian Croquet Centre. Outcomes have included the purchase of a second defibrillator for the VCC, and the initiation of a first aider training program
- Support with the implementation of the government's Child Safe Standards by clubs providing services to children
- Maintenance and development of the Victorian Croquet Centre
- Development of a business plan for the Victorian Croquet Centre

I'd particularly like to thank the members of Council who are retiring as from June 2026. Those known to me at this stage are Claire Keating (Treasurer for close to six years), Stephen Forster (Vice President for six years), and Regional Directors Russell Worland (SWCA), Kevin Beard (WMCMA), Rachel Cousins (Wimmera) and Joan Loorham (Goldfields). Many thanks for all you have contributed, and best wishes for the future.

Thanks also to the continuing Directors, to the other members of sub-committees and working groups, to the appointed officers and their assistants, and to everyone who helps out. As this report demonstrates, very many members are making a substantial contribution to Croquet Victoria.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: *Sarina Cevaal-Hewitt*

A busy year, dealing with the migration of club membership lists and websites to revSport.

Clubs are now generally managing to update this database themselves. Sub-Committees and Working Groups have been added to revSport. Much of the progress in these areas is thanks to the efforts of our previous webmaster Gareth Bushill.

Thank you to all the Sub-Committees who conscientiously submit meeting minutes and the volunteers at club level who contribute to the management of our sport at club, regional and state level.

Appointed Officers can be found at this link on the Croquet Victoria website:

[Officers | Croquet Victoria](#)

Sub-Committee and Working Group members can be found at this link on the Croquet Victoria website. [Sub-Committees | Croquet Victoria](#)

During the year, elected Directors attendance at Committee of Management and Council meetings from the Council meeting in June 2025 to the Council Meeting 18 May 2026 was:

Kate Patrick, President	10/11	Pat Smith	9/11
Stephen Forster, Vice-President	6/11	Robin Russell	9/11
Sarina Cevaal-Hewitt, Secretary	11/11	Rita Jenkins	11/11
Claire Keating, Treasurer	10/11	Ian Potter	10/11

Regional representation at Council meetings was:

Ballarat	9/11	Goldfields	10/11	South Eastern Metro	8/11
Bayside	11/11	Goulburn Valley	11/11	South West	7/11
Eastern Metro	11/11	Murray Valley	10/11	Western Metro	11/11
Geelong	11/11	Northern Districts	10/11	Wimmera	8/11
Gippsland	10/11	North Eastern District	11/11		

VCA WEBSITE MANAGER'S REPORT: *Gareth Bushill*

I stepped down as Croquet Victoria's webmaster in February 2026. This report covers the period until then.

Croquet Australia National Platform

This is the first season Croquet Victoria has used Croquet Australia's national platform (based on revSPORT) for member management.

To prepare for this, and ongoing throughout this season, we have

- created a series of video guides on the use of revSPORT, hosted on the CV website
- held online training sessions for club portal administrators statewide, which were recorded and circulated for future reference
- improved the Director Portal and admin reporting function in the CV website
- phased out the legacy Photo Gallery.

Each club now uses a revSPORT portal for reporting its membership to Croquet Victoria and Croquet Australia, replacing the legacy proprietary system we had been using since 2008.

In addition each club may opt to use revSPORT to host its own club website.

The Croquet Victoria website continues to host the following functions:

- Public-visible display of club membership lists
- Tournament System (until the end of the current season)
- Administrative interfaces for updating handicaps, refereeing and coaching
- Director Portal
- Annual Club Survey

New Webmaster

Following a period of training and handover, Colin Clark took over as Croquet Victoria webmaster in February 2026.

STATE COORDINATOR OF ASSOCIATION CROQUET REFEREES REPORT:

Kenn Boal

The Refereeing part of Association Croquet has been at a stand still for a few years but Brian Foley has been holding things together and we must congratulate him for what he has achieved over that time.

Although we have had many Referees over the years this has been reduced to 16. All have done their update of the Law 7 Rules and within that there are 5 Coaches/Examiners.

To update all now have to do a Law 7 update and the Referee's part of the Referees Exam .

On the positive side there are 8 on the verge of completing the Umpire's part of the Referees Exam with another 3 stating the process.

Although the numbers seem small most of the other states are around the 20s.

I have only taken on this position for a year, I hope the new person enjoys the job.

STATE COORDINATOR OF GOLF CROQUET REFEREES REPORT:

John van der Touw

None provided.

STATE COORDINATOR OF RICOCHET CROQUET REFEREES REPORT:

Maurice Cevaal-Hewitt

We have four Ricochet Referees who will be reaccredited this year.

STATE ASSOCIATION CROQUET HANDICAPPER REPORT: *Mike Cohn*

The main activity of the State Handicapper Association Croquet in the year to 31 March 2026 has been to answer questions. The most common questions relate to the setting of initial handicaps, especially for players who have prior experience in Golf Croquet.

STATE GOLF CROQUET HANDICAPPER REPORT: *Maurice Cevaal-Hewitt*

There has been an increased interest in regions and clubs hosting Handicapping workshops.

Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 seven Golf Croquet Handicapping Workshops have been delivered.

- Kew Croquet Club (April 2025)
- Yarrowonga Croquet Club (January 2026)
- Drouin Croquet Club (August 2025)
- Village Glen Croquet Club (September 2025)
- Horsham Croquet Club (February 2026)
- Geelong Eastern Park Croquet Club (February 2026)
- Wonthaggi Croquet Club (February 2026).

Each participant received a folder with those resources relevant to the role of Club Handicapper and practiced on mock handicap cards.



STATE COORDINATOR OF RICOCHET CROQUET REPORT:

Maurice Cevaal-Hewitt

Victoria hosted the Australian 2025 Ricochet Croquet Doubles and Singles at the Victorian Croquet Centre in August 2025. Camaraderie amongst the players was a highlight. Enthusiasm for the Ricochet Croquet code evident at the event. Very lively discussion about the current Ricochet Rules.



Doubles Winners: Kevin Beard (Brunswick Croquet Club), Owen Dickinson (Essendon Croquet Club) with Tournament Referee Maurice Cevaal-Hewitt.



Singles Winner: Owen Dickinson (Essendon Croquet Club - holding tray) with Runner-Up Brian Williams (New Zealand).



Ricochet coaching day at Traralgon Croquet Club, Thursday 19 March 2026

We have been able to schedule the Inaugural Victorian Ricochet Croquet Doubles and Singles Championship at Traralgon 8-12 June 2026. This is a huge step forward for the code in Victoria. The Ricochet Croquet training day hosted at the Traralgon Croquet Club on 19 March 2026 was very well attended.

STATE COORDINATOR UNDER 21 CROQUET REPORT: *Kate Patrick*

Members

At 15, the number of under 21 members in the year 2025/26 was unchanged from the previous year, but some players were new and others left. The eight clubs with U21 players registered also include some new clubs. Membership at the end of 2025 was:

Brunswick	1
Drouin	1
Golden Square	5
Korumburra	1
Mildura	2
Portland	3
Swan Hill	1
Wodonga	1

There are also some clubs that have unregistered U21 players who occasionally play. It may be that clubs do not realise that affiliation fees are reduced for under 21 players and that scholarships are available to support them if they wish to enter competitions or attend training.

This year there are 42 clubs that either have junior members and/ or are expecting to run a schools program. We have had some meetings to help encourage clubs to have local interschool competitions. The goal being that in the next couple of years the winners of these competitions could compete against each other. The long term goal would be to have croquet included in the inter-school sports programs for both state and independent schools. This latter goal is a few years off.

Events held for U21s

In the 2025 September school holidays a day of play and coaching was offered to interested under 21 members. Three 17 year old members participated, from widely dispersed clubs. They played doubles with more experienced partners, and singles against each other. Many thanks to all the players who contributed to this. Despite the low numbers it was a positive and enjoyable event.

Due to Croquet Australia cancelling the gold and silver event for U21s, instead of the U21 bronze event, we had an inaugural Victorian Under 21 Championship at Cairnlea over the weekend of 6-7 December. While only 4 players were able to compete, there was high quality croquet played with a best of 3 round robin. Two players triggered to be in Division 1 for the first time. The end result was Michael McLean (Golden Square) was winner and James Wombwell (Portland) runner up. We enjoyed a BBQ together and look forward to this event again later this year, hopefully with more participants.

The Australian U21 Championships were held in Hobart and Sandy Bay and while we were not hosting this time, we had 5 Victorian players representing us. In the doubles Michael McLean and Zac Suter were runners up, James Mason and James Wombwell were third and Henry Wombwell participated for the first time as a partner for a Tasmanian player. In the singles all 4 players (Henry didn't do the singles) played extremely well, with Michael coming 3rd.

Some of the U21s have started to compete more in other competitions as well, with some successes. The U21 competitions have enabled them to have the courage to also compete elsewhere. Thank you to all the clubs that have made them feel so welcome and have encouraged them in their endeavours.

Child safe

Meeting the Government's Child Safe standards continues to be challenging for clubs, particularly where they do not have junior members but do provide activities for schools. Online workshops for clubs were held during 2025/26. During 2026 face to face workshop sessions in the Strategic Plan roadshows will focus on positive outcomes to be achieved from working with the standards.

Progress

While we have not yet found a new U21 co-ordinator, Pieta McLean has stepped into the role of assistant Victorian U21 co-ordinator. Many thanks to her for her energy and ideas. Thanks also to Graham Smith for his contributions to under 21 activities and as a member of the Child Safe subcommittee.

STATE COORDINATOR OF COACHING REPORT: *Kaye Molyneux*

Retaining and gaining new coaches is a growing problem not only in Victoria but across all states. An aging demographic and Croquet Australia requirements appear to be a problem common across Australia. This is an area that coaching coordinators across Australia are looking at and hope to get changes made to requirements.

In Victoria a lack of Presenter/Assessor Coaches has also been an issue which is currently being addressed. With six new Presenter/Assessor coaches currently being accredited across five regions, we should be in a position to offer more training for coaches.

We have seven coaches who still need to reaccredit by the end of 2026. There is a much larger number who will need to reaccredit in 2027.

We have 92 people who are coaches across all regions. The majority are in the Melbourne area. South Western only have 2 coaches, one in GB and one newly accredited in AC. Gippsland has a small number of coaches for the total number of clubs. 42 clubs have at least one coach but not across all codes that they play.

There are three new Association prospective coaches ready to be accredited and 2 still completing prerequisites. Four Golf Croquet players are currently doing their prerequisites to become coaches.

Accredited coaches by code				
Golf Croquet				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3		Presenter/Assessor
41	27	7		5
Association Croquet				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Presenter/Assessor
2	15	7	3	7
Gateball				
Level 3	Level 2			Presenter/Assessor
1	4			2
Ricochet				
Level 1	Level 2			Presenter/Assessor
2	1			1

Coaches by Region				
Region	Golf	Association	Gateball	Ricochet
Ballarat and District	4	1		1
Bayside	6			
Eastern Metro	10	7	3	
Geelong	3	4		
Gippsland	4	1		
Goldfields	5	1		
Goulburn Valley	6	3		
Murray Valley	4			
North Eastern	8	2	1	2
Northern District	6	2		
South East Metro	7			
South Western		1	1	
Western Metro Croquet & Mallet Sports	3	3		
Wimmera	7	1		

ASSOCIATION CROQUET SELECTION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mike Cohn

The activities of this committee vary little between years and follow a cycle covering selection of squads, selecting players for selectors' invitational events, and selecting the Victorian team to play in the coming Eire Cup.

Thanks go to the Committee: Mike Cohn (Chair), Brian Foley (Secretary), Kenn Boal, Chris Grant and Claire Bassett.

The current committee is well balanced including a male and a female member of the state squad and three other members familiar with AC competition in Victoria and Australia. It is desirable to have two such squad members on the committee representing both genders, while ensuring squad members do not form a majority on the committee.

CONSTITUTION REVIEW WORKING GROUP REPORT: *Robin Russell*

The first initiative of the Working Group, to cease meetings of the Committee of Management and to increase frequency of Croquet Victoria (CV) Council meetings to monthly, has been generally well received. It looks like a lot of the dissatisfaction with CV governance has been addressed with this initiative.

Working Group attention has focussed on identifying a sound alternative to the current “federation of Regions” structure. Once that work of developing the alternative and documenting the pros and cons of the options is completed, we intend to broadly canvas the Council, Regions, Clubs and individual members on the options. The current concept for member consultation is to use a questionnaire format that includes issues that emerge from the current strategic plan workshops as well as the organisational structure questions.

In parallel with that, the Working Group is also turning its attention to the housekeeping issues that need to be addressed in the current constitution, with the objectives of simplifying and clarifying. Areas in the By-Laws that should be in the Constitution and vice versa will be examined in this process.

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT: *Tom Lacey*

The Nominations Sub-Committee has met regularly throughout the last 12 months. Meeting frequency has varied from monthly to weekly, depending on workloads and priorities relating to events including the upcoming AGM and General meetings on 15 June 2026.

Significant outcomes include

Webmaster: Colin Clark appointed.

Treasurer: A nomination for the Treasurer position is being presented at the June General Meeting. Claire Keating is precluded from continuing as Treasurer due to her 6-year tenure in the role.

Appointed Officer positions: Nomination for most positions are being presented at the June General Meeting. The incumbent State Coordinator of Gateball and State Coordinator under 21 Croquet will renominate but have each indicated they prefer other people succeed them. The subcommittee is working on these roles.

Current priorities

Secretary: The current position holder, Sarina Cevaal-Hewitt, has indicated her wish to vacate this role. Being of critical importance to Croquet Victoria, Sarina has agreed to stay on until such time as the position is filled. This remains a priority of this subcommittee. The Assistant to the Treasurer position remains unfilled but under discussion. The Assistant to the Secretary will be actively sought once an appointment to the substantive position is made.

Other matters

An early initiative was the creation, distribution and follow up on the Volunteers Poster seeking expressions of interest in several Croquet Victoria positions. Several Assistant Coordinator positions were filled as a result.

This report is correct as of 8 May 2026. Subsequent changes may occur prior to the June meeting.

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT: *Claire Keating*

During the year the Finance sub-committee, comprising Claire Keating (Chair), Paul Coughlin, Trevor Bassett, Wayne Worlidge, Russell Worland, Kate Patrick (ex officio) and Stephen Forster as a regular attendee, and the Investment Advisory Group (David Ross and Paul Coughlin) merged to form the Finance and Investment sub-committee.

The Committee prepared combined terms of reference which were approved by Council in September 2025.

The terms of reference include:

- to report to Council on key accounting, budget and investment matters;
- be responsible to Council for overseeing financial audits and financial management, including systems and processes; and
- to manage the investment fund within the parameters of the Investment Policy.

Four meetings were held in the 2026 financial year. In addition Committee members attended two meetings with JBWere as our Investment Advisors.

Key achievements

The key achievements of the committee for the year are:

- a) Overseeing the preparation of the financial statements for 2025
- b) Drafting and having approved terms of Reference for the new sub-committee
- c) Reviewing and endorsing to Council the 2027 budget
- d) Drafting revised Investment Policy and managing implementation with JBWere
- e) Combining Financial Delegations and Procurement Policy

In terms of financial management, over the past year there has been an operating surplus of \$216k and a growth in net assets of \$411k.

The investment portfolio valuations are as follows:

The preserved amount of the original investment CPI indexed to 31st March 2026 is \$5,287,488.55.

The portfolio valuation as at 31 March 2025 was \$5,608,517.

The portfolio valuation as at 31 March 2026 was \$6,114,932.

VCA drawdowns during the year were \$80,000.

The portfolio valuation as at 30 April 2026 is \$6,264,196.

Using the valuation as at 31 March 2026, the aim over the coming twelve months would be to achieve approximately \$225,000 in interest and dividends whilst indexing the preserved value to the CPI.

Thanks

This is my last year as Treasurer. I am pleased that over the past six years we have been able to hold individual affiliation fees flat and remove club and regional fees, exceed our operating result over budget every year and at the same time grow the Investment portfolio (from \$3.5m in 2020 to \$6.2m now) which has resulted in more annual investment income to support our operations.

Thanks to all the committee members and attendees for their contribution and support over the past six years. Thanks also to Kate and Sarina who, amongst much other assistance provided, were called upon many times to review and approve all payments.

GOLF CROQUET SELECTION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT: *Kaye Molyneux*

We welcomed two new selectors to the committee this season, Claire Keating and Richard Parks. They have added a new perspective and energy to the group. The GC Selectors have generally met via zoom during the past season.

The Interstate Shield was contested in NSW in 2025. Victoria only won one test but if you look at overall statistics, they had a better win/loss ratio and hoop count than SA who placed 4th. Unfortunately, we had three of our top men declare they were unavailable for selection for various reasons just prior to team selection. We had four players representing Victoria for the first time.

The team that represented us was:

Men – Damien Hadfield (Vice Captain), Jack Williams, Owen Dickinson, Phill Shattock and Richard Parks.

Women – Claire Keating (Captain) Helen Gammon, Julie Beasley, Mary Cockett and Janine Sisson

The Bronze Medal event was contested by eight players with Phill Shattock winning six of his seven games. We look forward to him representing Victoria in September 2026.

Two selectors invitational events have been organised. The second selectors was played in

conjunction with the Victoria vs Victoria A event in August 2025, which gave the selectors a chance to look at some up and coming players, some of whom were selected to be in the Development Squad.

We have reduced the size of the State Squad this year and have reintroduced a Development Squad to assist in the development of more players at the higher level. Thankyou to Shane Downie and Kevin Beard for making this work.

Shane Downie was appointed as State Squad Coach and has organised sessions from late 2025 through early 2026 which have engaged and challenged all members of the squad. Most weekends have been at Cairnlea with a great weekend at Traralgon in March. The Sunday training sessions at Cairnlea have seen the Development Squad also in attendance with Shane organising activities and Kevin assisting so Shane could also work with the State Squad. This has been effective and we thank both Shane and Kevin. Squad members have had the opportunity to give feedback on the model. It has been positive, with members pleased to be given opportunities to be together as a group prior to team selection.

Thank you to the Victorian Golf Croquet Selectors for the season, Kaye Molyneux (Chair), Claire Keating, Chas Quinn and Richard Parks (Minutes). We look forward to the ISS being held in Victoria this year.

HEALTH & SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT: *Rita Jenkins*

Terms of Reference

The HSC will develop and maintain policies and facilitate actions necessary to protect the health and safety of CV members, facilities and activities, including in the areas of adverse playing conditions and first aid. The HSC will also provide a forum through which regions, clubs and members can raise matters of concern for free and respectful discussion.

Membership

Members of the sub-committee from June 2025 to date are:

- Robin Russell (Brighton) Convenor)
- Rita Jenkins (Shepparton, Secretary)
- Ian Potter (Boort)
- Alister McDougal (Boort)
- Kate Patrick (President, Croquet Victoria, Ex-officio)

The Health and Safety subcommittee held its first Meeting in July 2025 and reviewed the Terms of References and Policy Statement.

It has reviewed the following policies under its scope.

- Anti-Doping Policy Croquet Australia
- Wet Day Procedure
- First Aid. Adverse Playing Conditions Weather policy.

The subcommittee consulted with Tournament and Fixtures on First Aid and Adverse Weather conditions.

A second heart defibrillator was approved by Council and purchased for the shed at Cairnlea closer to the courts.



First Aid Training

The sub-committee prepared an initial budget to have First Aiders trained for events at Cairnlea which in turn will benefit their home clubs. The budget was approved by Council for the use of defibrillator, CPR and First Aid. Seven people undertook this training just prior to the Country Regionals.

The subcommittee also encourage clubs to apply to Sports Victoria for grants to assist in providing training at club level for members.



Adverse playing conditions Policy

An updated policy was approved by Council in December 2025 and asked regions and clubs to provide feedback. The subcommittee is continuing liaising with Sydney University with a view to having Croquet added to the selection of Sports to its Sports Health Tool App.

Club safety inspections checklists the subcommittee obtained feedback from clubs as to what to add to Croquet Australia's Inspection checklist which will be forwarded to Croquet Australia.

MARKETING & PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT:

Clare Newton & Rita Jenkins

Terms of Reference

The Marketing & Publicity sub-committee's role is to promote the sport of Croquet across Victoria and southern NSW.

Membership

Members of the sub-committee from June 2025 to date are:

- Rita Jenkins (Shepparton, (Convenor)
- Clare Newton (MCC/Kew) (Secretary)
- Julie Barber (Swan Hill)
- Wayne Worlidge (MCC)
- Janelle Morris (Belmont)
- Kate Patrick (President, Croquet Victoria, Ex-officio)

Meetings

The sub-committee met every month.

Rebranding

ACA introduced a consistent rebranding logo for the states. Victoria adopted it and is rebranding publicity materials, merchandise and new badges and uniforms. A new media wall with the new logo was designed and resides at Cairnlea as a backdrop for Victorian presentations. Just recently the old logo flag at Cairnlea was replaced with an updated flag.

Electronic Publications

M&P Newsletter: 12 newsletters were published during the year. However, there still appeared to be continuing problems in disseminating these reports to Club members by the clubs.

Introducing Club Profiles alternating between Metro and Regionals clubs.

We continued to have strong positive responses for stories on clubs' active long serving members.

Great Heritage Badges good news stories from clubs are continuing.

Life memberships stories have been a feature too.

VCA Tri-Fold Brochure This is still in solid demand from clubs with a reprint of stock last year to meet demand. A new family style brochure is in train.

VCA Tri Fold Brochure Play Croquet Quick Start Guide

A new brochure was produced based on Croquet England's trifold and reprinted with Croquet England's permission. A limited number was printed and sent out to the regions for club feedback.

A4 Poster "Looking for a New Sport?" Demand for these continued from clubs and was refreshed and updated to include a QR Code to help find your nearest croquet club. Electronic stock is still available for clubs. 9362 views of this poster from a club Facebook page shows its popularity.

Bookmarks

The double sided bookmarks continue to be sought by clubs.

Heritage badges

During 2025, Croquet Victoria clubs continued to award Heritage Badges to members who have made an outstanding contribution to the club. Some clubs have converted these badges into a perpetual trophy so that a new recipient of a Heritage Award can be appointed every year.

Many wonderful stories of recipients continue to be published in the M and P monthly newsletters

Electronic Publications

Website: <https://croquetvic.asn.au/web/>

Croquet News section is updated with articles/stories/photos sent in by the Tournament Managers and clubs. We thank Clubs and Tournament organisers for their stories and photos.

Social Media

We continue to be active on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Audience statistics revealed.

Facebook: Total Facebook followers is now **1,400 with 945 likes up 28 on 2025 (April 2026)**. Views over a 28 day period vary from 44,000 to 68,000 depending on which event we are streaming. Our followers are chiefly from Australia. Facebook followers are made up of 69.5% women, 42.10% men mainly over 60 years.

Instagram: Has 93 followers 40% women and 60% men and age range is mainly in the 60s+ [croquetvictoria](https://www.instagram.com/croquetvictoria)

X: Total followers are 76. All have been refreshed with the new Croquet Victoria logo. <http://www.twitter.com/CroquetVictoria>

You Tube: Croquet Victoria has 202 videos and channel analytics show us with 379 current subscribers up from 354 in 2025. Thirty three of our videos have over 1000 views. The original health video has now over 5k views. Our recent 2026 trial livestreaming of the Presidents Eights have had 1.7k and 1.5k views to date.

<http://www.youtube.com/@CroquetVictoria1>

Regions Across all the Regions and the 86 clubs, 54+ clubs have their own Facebook page and some actively promote their club. There are 14 Regions and only 5 have Facebook pages with only 3 active in promoting their regions.

Croquet Victoria continues to share relevant information that appears on the social media of other states, Croquet Australia and the World Croquet Federation.

Live Streaming

Tournaments and Fixtures Sub-Committee members provided a list of 2026/2027 tournaments suitable for livestreaming. Costs and videographer availability were checked and a request for \$16,000 was discussed at the April Council meeting. This funding is sufficient for livestreaming 29 days of key tournaments across the year. Livestreaming has potential to attract sponsorship funding to ensure longevity.

Publicity Items

Pens with stylus were reintroduced last year and are for sale at \$3.00.



Alison Maugham Digital Workshops

Marketing and Publicity arranged 2 free zoom workshops with Alison Maugham, a passionate UK Digital and website designer. Monash and Frankston and Mornington clubs were chosen based on their reasons for wanting to improve their online marketing and grow their memberships. Both sessions have been completed but Alison has agreed to meet again with clubs in October to give time for initiatives to take place.

Radio Promotion

Media Releases were forwarded to radio stations 3LO, 3AW and Eastside. News to promote World Croquet Day in May.

Merchandise

Thirteen sets of merchandise were distributed to Clubs in the year. This does not include 5 copies of the "Quick Start" trifolds sent to every club in Victoria, requesting feedback. Significant difficulties were encountered with Clubs' mailing addresses.

RISK AND COMPLIANCE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT:

None provided.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT:

Patricia Reeve

The Strategic Plan Implementation Sub-Committee has responsibility for monitoring and reporting progress towards the goals of Croquet Victoria's Strategic Plan via a rolling implementation plan. The scope of the Sub-Committee also includes projects funded under the Victorian Government's Together More Active (TMA) Foundation Grant. Members of the SPISC in 2025-2026 were Russell Worland, Lorraine Powell, Sarina Cevaal-Hewitt, Treesh Reeve and Kate Patrick (ex officio). There are two vacancies. Between July 2025 and May 2026, the SPISC held 11 meetings.

Since the last Annual Report, Croquet Victoria has

- continued to implement its Strategic Plan for the period 2022 to 2026
- developed and provided Together More Active Foundation Grant Funding and Status Reports to Sport and Recreation Victoria for the current funding period of 2023- 2027
- commenced development of the 2027-2031 Strategic Plan

1. Croquet Victoria Strategic Plan

In consultation with appointed officers and sub-committees, SPISC has continued to review activities in the 2022-2026 Plan. It is currently developing a draft Strategic Plan 2027-2031 in consultation with members through a series of Roadshows.

Funding for many of the Strategic Plan activities is provided from the Together More Active Foundation Grant (TMA) from Victoria Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions (DJSIR). Biannual discussions with DJSIR staff detail progress with activities and negotiation of variances which are included reports to DJSIR in October and April.

2022-2026 Plan Implementation

The major focus of our work has been the TMA funded activities in the Strategic Plan in particular Player Development, Handicapping, CV Development Fund Initiative and Lawn Testing. This has included monitoring progress and developing remedial action where necessary to address any shortfall in planned activities or changed circumstances. A report on our progress, against the outcome measures we set for the end of 2026, is providing background for the new Strategic Plan currently in development.

croquetvic.asn.au/PlanningForCroquet

1.2 Strategic Plan 2027-2031 Development

SPISC has planned and commenced implementing a rolling program of Roadshows to gather input from club members to the *Capability/Sport Development and Membership/Recruitment/ Participation* aspects of the Plan. A specific program will be developed for each Roadshow. Initially the programs will focus on gathering participants' ideas. Later stages will refine/add to material collected in earlier stages and further developed by SPISC with input from CV Officers and other sub-committees

2. Together More Active Foundation Grant 2023-2027

Together More Active Foundation Grant (TMA) from Sport & Recreation Victoria for 2023-2027 is entering its final year. Funding totals \$80 000 (\$20 000 per year.)

SPISC reported to DJSIR on grant activity in April and October 2025. These funds have supported CV Strategic Plan activities primarily in relation to the following goals: Capability and Sport Development; Membership, Recruitment and Participation and Image of Croquet.

DJSIR has announced the following State Government expectations of funded organisations in 2026/27 and future grant applications. These expectations will have a major impact on the work of SPISC in the coming year.

There is a whole of government policy on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Eligibility for state government funding from 2027 will require us to have three Action Plans: First Nations Action Plan; Gender Equity Action Plan; Inclusion Action Plan. In keeping with these expectations SRV expects to see significant funded activity to develop these action plans in the last year of the current grant.

3. Acknowledgement

SPISC appreciates the work of CV officers, volunteers and other CV sub-committees and working groups in implementing CV Strategic Plans. We thank them for enabling us to carry out our role by providing details of their plans, challenges and achievements.

TOURNAMENT & FIXTURES SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT:

Tournament & Fixtures Sub-Committee

Current committee members

Kevin Beard, Damien Hadfield, David Pryor, Ian Potter, Janet Dickinson.

Meetings held every 3 to 4 weeks via Zoom.

Continued discussions have included updates, identification of any issues, future planning and possible changes to events held at VCC to improve conditions for players and to consider impact of tournaments on regional and country clubs to maximise participation by players.

- GC events at VCC – both Victorian and Australian croquet events
- AC events at VCC – both Victorian and Australian croquet events
- CA Ricochet tournament held at VCC – Croquet Australia event
- Under 21 Events
- Gateball events
- Unifying events including all croquet disciplines- “Carnival of Croquet” and “Fun Day”.

Croquet Victoria is hosting the GC Nationals (Gold Medal, Women's and Men's Championships and Interstate Shield) in September 2026. This is currently our major focus. This will require the support of clubs, players, officials and volunteers throughout Victoria to be successful.

- Require up to 12 courts in addition to the 12 courts at VCC. Looking at clubs within 90 minutes of VCC.
- Venues will need a Venue Manager, Referees, Hoop setters, Catering, training (eg, Croquet Scores)
- Consider Live Streaming, Sponsorship, Functions

We have set up working parties of volunteers to assist in aspects of organisation 2026-27 Victorian Calendar – The process of collating proposed tournament dates for Clubs and Regions commenced in February. The dates for tournaments have been influenced by an overhaul of the Croquet Australia calendar which trickles down to events held in Victoria. The Victorian calendar will be finalized in April after Clubs fine tune their dates to minimize clashes between nearby club tournaments. OHS subcommittee have requested a review of some documentation. T&F members have assisted with liaison re heat policy input.

Tournament Managers – still looking for additional support- willingness to train any interested persons. Lachlan Berryman has begun assisting with AC tournaments when available and Felix Gelman White has assisted with the GC Bronze Medal and Selectors invitation event in March 11, 2026

Catering at VCC – ongoing investigation into options for external catering due to current unavailability of assistance from RNB croquet club and Rosalie and Dennis Newman (volunteers) as occurred in 2024 – 25. Brimbank Croquet Club for GC and Junko Hill for AC events has been assisting, when possible, in having lunches available on site for Tournament Days, but ongoing consistent assistance would be advantageous to all.

Participation of players at events- the number of players entering into events over the past 12 months appears to have increased. The recent Fun Day held in February at VCC had 44 participants with 3 new players to croquet. Both AC and GC coaching was on offer to players. Of note the Australia Day GC event was oversubscribed. The John Grieve, Women's Invitation, Tregallis Medal & Nelson Medal had increased numbers from the previous 12 months

1st Aid Training for tournament managers, frequent volunteers and players at VCC has been addressed and a course will be attended by 7 people on 9th April 2026. Referees - numbers noted to be low with consistently the same people assisting for both AC and GC disciplines. GC has had several new faces for the Vic Open/ Presidents' 8 events in January/ February which was wonderful and we will be encouraging these new referees where possible.

Indigenous integration continues to be under review. Correspondence and discussion into how we can increase interest and engagement is ongoing. Livestreaming of events from VCC is encouraged by the committee who have volunteered to work with Media and Publicity to promote and discuss events best suited for this coverage.

The Committee has worked very hard throughout the year to maintain a positive effect on croquet players, to promote tournament participation and to assist with any concerns players or visitors may have. This work has included encouragement, participation and support to Regions, Clubs and people new to running tournaments. The participation on the sub-committee by regional and metropolitan representatives has allowed equity in decision making and planning with all members working co-operatively together.

Additional support to this committee with any of the ongoing issues and planning would be valued and greatly appreciated.

VCC BUSINESS PLAN WORKING GROUP REPORT: *Robin Russell*

The Working Group has found it very challenging to identify new revenue streams for the Victorian Croquet Centre (VCC). Much of the focus has been on the expenditure side of the equation, which involves a lot of overlap with the VCC Committee.

The VCC Committee and the Working Group are currently considering recommending amalgamation to the Council.

Meanwhile recently emerged interest in a long-term arrangement to use the VCC kitchen for a commercial catering business is being explored.

VCC SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT: Kevin Beard & Chris Grant

During the 2025-26 year this committee has been working on the following.

Croquet Courts

Courts 11 and 12 were cored, scarified and top dressed this year and are now in excellent condition. These were the last of the courts to be renovated over the previous 3-4 year cycle. The cycle will begin again next year. The courts now have the best grass cover and playing surface they have had since the Centre was opened in 2006.

Security & Safety Systems

The security system has been upgraded with more effective alarms and the addition of multiple security cameras in the vicinity of the equipment sheds near the rear carpark. All alarms and cameras are integrated into the main building security infrastructure.

Occupational Health and Safety

A second defibrillator has been installed in the medical cabinet in the shelter for Court 4 attached to the brown equipment shed. The original defibrillator is situated in the main building near the Tournament Manager's office.

Seven volunteers completed First Aid training; their names are displayed beside the First Aid kit in the Tournament Manager's office. All three First Aid kits have been restocked.

Two tripping hazards have been mitigated. The first hazard, two holes in the concrete flooring that are used to secure the folding room-divider in the clubhouse, has been addressed by covering the holes with non-slip tape. The second hazard, 500 mm high concrete walls that border four sets of steps between the clubhouse and the courts, have had their edges covered in highly visible protective rubberised tubing.

Following a faulty electrical device that brought both the Main Office and Tournament Manager's office offline, we split the two offices into independent electrical networks, eliminating a single point of failure.

All electrical cabling in the clubhouse and back sheds has been tested and tagged.

Maintenance and Repairs

The Solar Panel System failed during the year, and a new Inverter has been installed and is working perfectly.

The Air Conditioners for the whole Clubhouse have been serviced for the first time since COVID. The Controllers for the Air Conditioning in the open areas on the ground floor have been moved from the secure Bar area to the public side of the Bar, for better access and convenience.

The passenger lift which hasn't been operational for several years has been repaired and serviced and is now fully functional.

A new commercial hot water system has been installed upstairs which has successfully addressed the annoying intermittent faults that have plagued the Centre for years.

General maintenance and compliance.

Works Planned for Next Year

The stairs to the first floor near the main entrance of the clubhouse pose a risk of people striking their head. Plans are underway to completely enclose the underside of the stairs

(mitigating the risk). The enclosed area will be functional with room to store game-day equipment in drawers and a space for storing tables and other items not required on a given day.

The deterioration in the concrete paths around the building and the courts poses potential trip hazards. The worst of the cracks, where stepping is involved, will be ground down and patched. Less severe issues will be clearly marked as a walking hazard. In the longer term, consideration will be given to re-laying some paths and possibly removing others.

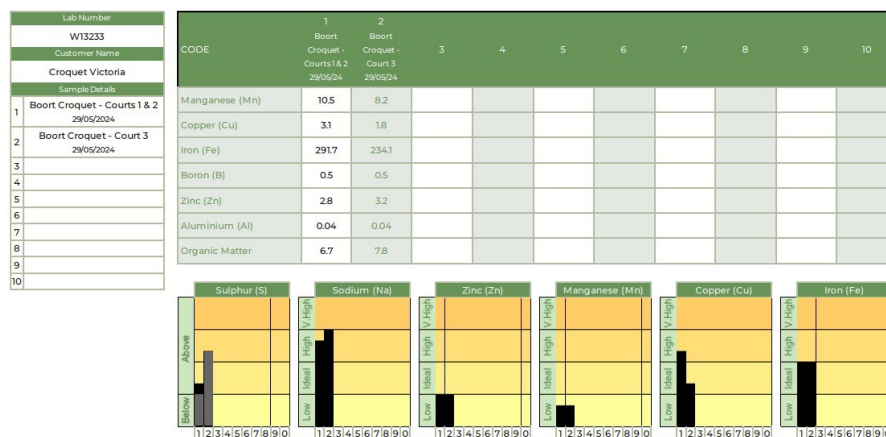
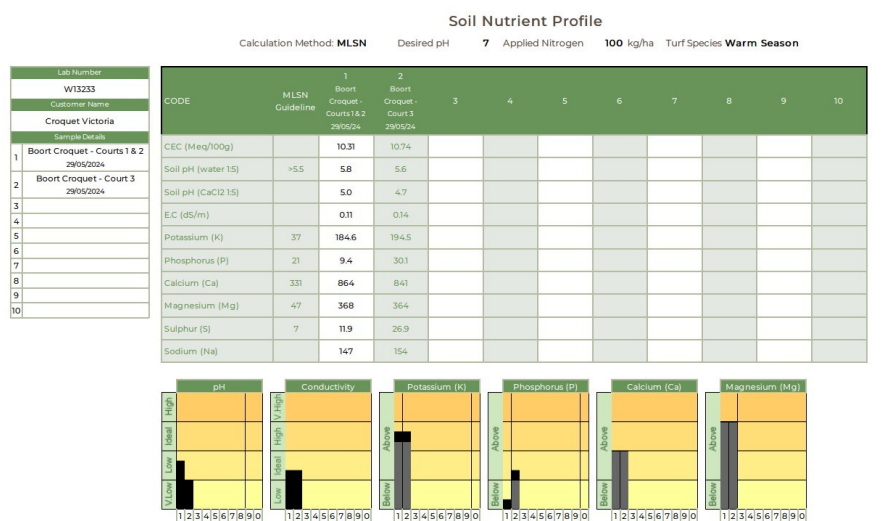
There are 12 shelters that surround the court area that are in dire need of repair. We would like to restore all of them, but this will be financially difficult, and so the work may need to be staged or scaled back. In any case, repair of the shelter between courts 3 and 12 will be prioritised.

LAWN MANAGEMENT REPORT: Ian Potter

The most recent requests for help have come from Phillip Island, Sale, Ivanhoe Park and Eaglehawk. These requests came in the early part of this financial year.

There have not been any further requests for help with Croquet Club lawns since Dec 2025 and I feel that this Lawns Management working group should remain in the background for any future help needed. I find it hard to budget for future tests, but feel we need to consider future help.

For the interest of those that have not seen a soil report as supplied by "Living Turf", here is a copy of the Boort Club report as supplied by "Living Turf", and shows the pH of the soil and various levels of the elements that were available to the courts when the tests were done.



The grey areas of the bar graph indicate remaining nutrients after depletion based on 100 kg/ha of N applied per year.

Included with the report were recommendations to improve and maintain the courts. "Living Turf" have assured me in a conversation on 5/6/2026, that they are still willing to continue with the same program, and at the same cost for soil testing and production of a management report to each club tested.

I would still like the opportunity for the clubs that have fully utilized the service and followed the recommendations to the fullest, to be given a follow up soil test over the next couple of years to confirm the actions taken by the club. This would be a nice way to finish what we have started.

The total number of clubs taking up the offer of soil testing and a following report, was 37 since the program started in mid-2024.

Footnote: The following shows the Directors which clubs from within their Region have been involved with the lawns management project.

Ballarat and District (4 clubs) had Ballarat Alexandra and Ballarat Western involved.

Bayside (5 clubs) had Brighton involved.

Eastern Metro (6 clubs) had Ringwood and Ivanhoe Park involved.

Geelong (5 clubs) had Belmont, Drysdale, Geelong Eastern Park and Queenscliff involved.

Gippsland (13 clubs) had Korumburra, Warragul, Wonthaggi, Sale and Phillip Island involved.

Goldfields (4 clubs) had Castlemaine, Maryborough and Eaglehawk involved.

Goulburn Valley (8 clubs) had Deniliquin, Euroa and Kyabram involved.

Murray Valley (6 clubs) had Boort, Charlton, Mildura, Red Cliffs and Wycheproof involved.

North Eastern (14 clubs) had Albury and Wangaratta involved.

Northern District (5 clubs) had Kyneton, Macedon Ranges, Maldon and Quarry Hill involved.

South East Metro (5 clubs) had Mornington involved.

South Western (5 clubs) had Portland and Warrnambool involved.

Western Metro (4 clubs) was not involved.

Wimmera (3 clubs) had Casterton, Dimboola and Horsham involved.

The purpose of this is to highlight the spread of clubs taking up the opportunity and to advise the Directors of activity within their Region, as this was done on a club basis and not on a region basis.