



North Adelaide Croquet Club

Newsletter – July-August 2021



Notes from the Editor – Barry Elsey

Like other club members, I happily engage with the various activities and appreciate the collective voluntary effort required to keep things running actively and smoothly. A bonus for me is to sometimes connect with a 'big picture' of previous social and cultural studies that places the NACC in a wider context. Altogether they underline the importance of the role and purpose of the club in sustaining local community life and Australian society generally. You might like to see your club membership in another light through the observations of academic research and commentary. More to follow.

Regular playing and easy-going banter with other club members is a pleasant way to use leisure in an active and enjoyable way. We often hear laughter from groups making their way around the croquet courts, which continues over coffee and announcements at the intervals. There are few sports with such capacity for mutual entertainment in our struggles to play well. Clearly, we love the game of croquet, the club and what it offers for quality recreation and social interaction. Does it mean more than that?

What would the Mongolians think?

Such experiences remind me of encounters with people from other countries not as fortunate in having such a relaxed lifestyle. Years ago, I met with a group from Mongolia sent by their government to visit Australian social welfare services. My brief was to discuss social philosophies underpinning government and private sector provision. They were attracted to my explanation that the idea of well-being acted like an invisible hand in supporting and extending state-sponsored welfare. My point was that through voluntary associations, like the NACC, people have the freedom to meet and pursue leisure and recreation activities that provide simple pleasure shared in the company of others. Such lived experience by a mysterious alchemy fosters our collective resilience and individual immune systems. For those mainly familiar with top-down government this perspective was mind stretching. I like to think that the Mongolians returned home with ideas that were long forbidden in their dour political system.

Friedrich Nietzsche too!

Another observation about the NACC, and most voluntary associations, is as a meeting place for the promotion and sustainability of friendship. I think we do friendship very well as a club. The club fosters every kind of friendship and provides an easy starting point for forming new ones. Through friendships of all kinds mutual support is given freely. We have all done our bit to ask after the well-being of other members and much more besides, all freely given in the name of everyday friendliness and simple care for others. This is a wider meaning of voluntary association.

Even the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, not usually recognised for earthly observation, noted that *"It is fellowship in joy, not in sympathy in sorrow, that makes people friends"*. So, keep up the banter and easy laughter!

Nietzsche's observation takes us back to the 'life be in it' active lifestyle movement of the 1980s, capturing the essence of club membership and the pleasures of playing games and pursuing informal education (including the Scrabble players, the U3A and other groups that use the spacious club facilities with their own doings). Taken together these activities comprise local support networks that we all need to provide quality and sustenance to our lives. Long may our activities thrive.

The importance of the voluntary spirit

In a previous newsletter mention was made about the importance of volunteering to keep the club active and in tip-top condition. We all recognise Lynn and the other members of working bees. This time the spotlight falls on Glenda and her quiet work sending heart-touching cards celebrating birthdays and other anniversaries, delivered without fail through snail mail, all at her own expense. On behalf of club members, thank you for your splendid voluntary contribution **Glenda**.



Another local hero is **William**, officially recognised by Prospect Council for his volunteering contribution.

Thank you both and everyone else who does so much for the club.

Continuing the subject of giving to the club, everyone surely acknowledges the huge contribution of **Kevin and Sue** in the various leadership roles they play and the considerable effort in time and energy they freely contribute to keep the club active in competitions. More than that, they commit themselves to endless administrative tasks, much of which cannot be easily delegated. We might assess their value as the LePoidevin's squared! Thank you on behalf of all club members.



Our Historical Roots

In the previous newsletter attention was drawn to our historical roots, together with the lived experience of long-standing members who must have stories to tell about the various clubs that merged into the NACC. The club proudly displays photographs of past members, thanks to the sterling work of Gayle and team. Past members played their part in building Prospect and surroundings neighbourhoods as viable communities and laying the foundations for our continued activities. We need to capture the oral history of croquet through the stories of long-standing members. Colin, Glenda, Robert, Kay and others, we must hear more from you, please.

The active spirit of the club is further illustrated through the newly created NACC website. www.nacc-inc.club. In future this will be our main vehicle of promotion and source of information regarding our Club's diverse activities. It is important for everyone as a means of checking for all manner of information related to Croquet at North Adelaide together with SA and even world events.



Finally, we acknowledge the illustrious and much travelled Robin Golding featuring in a croquet event in April this year. Gilbert and Sullivan could have written lyrics to highlight the many medals festooned across her chest. Tally Ho Robin!

SA Masters Games Copper Coast April 15-18th 2021.

The Masters Games are great fun. I've participated as a volunteer for World MG in Melbourne in 2002 and Sydney in 2009. But since I got hooked on Golf Croquet Dec 2018 I've played in Australian MG in Adelaide in 2019 and also SA MG in April this year at Moonta and Kadina. I'm going to Perth in October this year for Australian MG. I'll eagerly consider all future opportunities. It's a friendly competition where you meet

great people and form lovely friendships.

At SA MG in April, both GC and AC competitions were played. Not many players from Adelaide were involved. Most were from country SA. Heather Martin (VHCC) and I competed in doubles and won 2 silver medals in our groups (over 76yo and also 'top handicap' group). In singles I was 3rd (bronze).

As Heather says 'We're winners just being here!'

When I go to Perth in October I'll be hosted by a 5W member. 5W is another enduring friendship group of mine. (5W = Women Welcome Women World Wide).

That's it from the NACC editor for this edition at least. What follows are short entries from the leading lights of the club reflecting on their roles and responsibilities.

Treasury - Kay McTavish-Cooke

Almost AGM time again, with a new Croquet financial season to begin. The last 18 months has been challenging for me but also rewarding. The club finances are in a reasonably good position.

I would like to thank all members for their response in paying their subscriptions in a timely manner, which is important as this is the main financial source enabling this wonderful club to keep functioning with the great amenities we have. Also, a big thank you to the club members who give their time tirelessly to make sure this club and its facilities are available for all to use. More helpers are always welcome, as this is **YOUR** club too,

Good luck to whomever takes on the Treasurer position for the next term.

Playing in the present – Sue LePoidevin

On Friday 21/5 and 28/5 our club hosted a group of over 20 Year 9 boys from Blackfriars Priory School. Many thanks to **Chris Dalzell, Gayle Searle, Sandra Rawlings, Robin Golding, Jim Carter** and **Kevin Le Poidevin** for providing coaching on both occasions. The group of boys was very appreciative and well behaved.



Community Support



We have also embarked on an internal club event on Sundays, filling a void left by the cancellation of a SACA competition. More about that in the next newsletter.

The Northwood Friendlies 2021 -_Sue LePoidevin

On Sunday 30/5/21 the annual Northwood Friendlies Golf Croquet match, between Norwood and North Adelaide clubs, was held at the Norwood Croquet Club. This is an annual event, but it had to be cancelled in 2020 due to the Pandemic. It was Norwood's turn to host this year and they did a wonderful job. The grounds were in top condition thanks to **Tony Cook**. When we arrived, we were greeted warmly by Helen Cook and her helpers. They had decked the clubrooms out very attractively and provided Morning Tea. After 2 games we were treated to a lovely lunch of soup, savouries, and dessert. Following one more game we were treated to more food for Afternoon Tea.

Sadly, North Adelaide didn't win the Cup, but we will continue to try to win it next year when we will host the match at North Adelaide. Norwood played very well and won 12 games 137 hoops to North Adelaide 9 games 130 hoops.

In remembrance of a splendid day played in perfect autumn weather here are some happy pics-



Congratulations William!

Recipient of Prospect Council Community Service Award



National Volunteer Week Celebrations in May 2021 saw William Pennino receive a City of Prospect Community Service Award. This was presented at an event held at the Prospect Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

The NACC Management Committee nominated William for this award as one way of acknowledging the fantastic work that he does for the Club as Grounds Manager.



William has for several years now, tirelessly volunteered many hours of his time and skills as the Grounds Manager at our North Adelaide Croquet club. He has always ensured that we have one of the best sets of croquet lawns in Adelaide, which is the envy of many other Croquet Clubs. William has also supervised maintenance of our Club buildings and equipment, installation and ongoing maintenance of new lights on all courts, arranged working bees to spruce up the outside areas of the Clubrooms and gardens together with the upkeep of the lawn markings and hoop placement. William's voluntary efforts are genuinely appreciated by all who play at the North Adelaide Croquet Club as we know that our equipment and grounds are maintained with skill, consideration and a true sense of pride. Many thanks and Congratulations William.



William
giving
his thank
you
speech.



All 2021 recipients of Prospect Council Community Service Awards

The NACC History Aspect. - Gayle Searle

Historical information of the North Adelaide Croquet Club is an important part of us all appreciating how we came to be the Club we are today. As many of you know, I have been collecting photos and memorabilia from the old croquet clubrooms and displaying them in our current clubrooms. Photo albums that were previously stored away on a shelf are on display for people to look through and enjoy. I have also been developing a history page on our new website where you can see more details of events that have occurred since 1926 when the Prospect Club was first formed, 95 years ago! **In 2026 (only 5yrs away) we will be celebrating 100 years!**



I had a chat with one of our long- standing members, Kay Seeary, who has been a member of this Croquet Club through its significant changes over many years. She kindly wrote out a few words for me to add into the newsletter, which I have added below.

“Prospect Croquet Club was inaugurated in March 1926 with 33 foundation members, many of whom were wives of bowlers from the Prospect Bowling Club. The foundation President was Mrs F.W. Hudd who gave valuable service to the Prospect and SACA, holding office for 41 years. (Mrs Hudd’s photo is in the office of our current clubrooms)

Prospect Croquet Club for many years had only one lawn next to the Prospect Bowling Club. The men played bowls and the women played croquet. On Saturdays, the women would also prepare and serve the men afternoon tea! One lawn was often divided in half to accommodate 16 players at a time. If there were more than 16 players, then cards were played by the others whilst they waited for afternoon tea and then the second game began.

One of the significant changes was the women changing from side style (to accommodate skirts) to centre style when it was more acceptable for women to wear slacks. The Prospect players were very competitive and were active in the administration of the sport.

In 2000 the Prospect Bowling Club amalgamated with Broadview Club which left the marvellous premises vacant. We quickly applied to the Prospect Council for the use of the premises and to that end we needed more members. Fitzroy & Broadview Clubs were invited to join us. Broadview declined but Fitzroy accepted. The Council approved so the new club “North Adelaide Croquet Club” was born.

At that stage we had fifty to sixty members mostly playing “Association Croquet (AC)”. We now have approximately eighty members mostly playing “Golf Croquet (GC) ” and approximately twenty AC players.

Golf Croquet was introduced as an introductory game that has now become a game with its own rules.

The club members are enthusiastic both with competitions and social activities enhancing the ongoing success of the North Adelaide Croquet Club today.”

I am sure there are many more tales to tell from other members of the Club so hopefully I can feature some more in the future editions. Please have a look around the Club and take a little time to check out the photos and mallets and medals from our past and present players’ achievements.

Important Reminders!! Dates for your diary.

- **The North Adelaide Croquet Club Annual General Meeting -Saturday July 17 at 12.00** followed by lunch in clubrooms. Bar will be open too, so come along to support your Committee and join in an enjoyable social time.
- Social fundraising event- **Sunday 11th July 2 pm – ‘Fifth Avenue Jewellery’ \$5 for afternoon tea.** Bar open. All funds raised for the Club.
- **Christmas in July Winedown Friday July 16th 5.30pm** Also Winedown August 20th
- **Club Winter Competition** - Sundays July 4th & July 25th August 1st 15th & 29th 2.00-5.00pm Bar open.
- **Sausage Sizzle** Saturdays July 31st & August 28th 12.00pm Bar Open

