



Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre Inc.

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NEWSLETTER February 2019

There has been quite a bit happening at the Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre recently. The Management Committee wish to update all club members on the progress of the Centre.



Photo by Tony Walker

LAWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The lawns are certainly looking good at present even following the very dry summer. This is thanks to the team lead by Paul Boer for their ongoing efforts and daily irrigation. Compliments by visitors from other Clubs throughout the State confirm this.

We were fortunate during 2018 to have received a \$5,000 grant from Tasmanian Community, Sport and Recreation for the lawn improvements. This grant was matched by funds raised through lawn fees and supported by 5,000 hours of volunteer work during the year, valued at \$15,500.

Works are now underway to establish a full complement of 8 full size lawns, this requires the re-location of some of the sprinkler system which will take place after the GC Open Singles on 26th – 28th April.



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In addition to these projects, there is ongoing maintenance of the lawns, with watering, mowing, line marking and hoop setting that must be paid for and supported by our team of volunteers, including Stuart Von See, Peter Keam, Laurence McGregor, Ruth McKean, Sylvia Wing and Rod Tait.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Of course, all this work comes at a cost and our budget per annum is around \$15,000 - \$18,000 to which all green fees paid are allocated. In order to maintain and improve the standard of lawns, it is important to ensure the Centre is fully utilised, with Club members, visitors and community groups.

There is plenty of activity at the Centre throughout each week. Monday is Community Day and includes St Michaels and a recent new Community Base Care group. Members from the School for Senior's play 4 ball, and golf croquet, it is always popular with the added potential to attract new members to the game of Croquet. Club members come along to assist with these groups, sharing their knowledge, tips and tricks with those new to the game.

A number of schools also send students to the Centre for an introduction to the game as part of their sports curriculum and our Community Coordinator, Lee Turner and others are working towards establishing a regular schools competition on Wednesday afternoons. Anyone who can assist with this will be most appreciated.

Not only are the schools financially beneficial to the Centre, but offer the opportunity to attract younger players to the game of Croquet. Hopefully they will become regular and competitive players. Among them could be the potential future players, members, volunteers, representatives and importantly an assurance in the continuation of the game and the Centre.

The involvement of these groups enables the Centre itself to become eligible to apply for any Community Grants funding available. Through these funds the new trailer, quad hoops, mallets, lawn improvement and deck shelter have been acquired.





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DECK SHELTER PROJECT

It is pleasing to see that the Deck Shelter is finally completed.

This was possible only with the support of the Tasmanian Community Fund, which contributed \$13,100 towards the project. The NTasCC provided funding of \$1,380 to complete the plumbing, as well as many hours of supervision and advice.

This project started back in 2017/18 with a funding application managed by Sylvia Wing and then carried on by Lynne Farrell and the Fundraising Committee.

This shelter will be a great asset to the Clubs and all those who use the Centre and help to make this the best croquet venue in the state for competitions.

NEW MOWER

An application for a Grant is underway for a new mower to replace the current one, which has been used solidly since the Centre was established. This will no doubt require funding support from the Centre and all Clubs and players will be asked to contribute and support the fundraising committee.

AGREEMENT WITH ST LEONARDS CLUB

We are still in discussion with the St Leonards Croquet Club for exclusive use of the Centre up to 1 pm for their 'Club Day' every Wednesday, apart from when lawns are required for Pennants, NRCC and TCA events, in which case they may use lawns available or arrange another club day with NTasCC.

It is hoped that SLCC will agree to continue the contribution they make towards maintaining the facilities so this issue can be resolved.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

During the daylight saving, twilight games are played on Thursdays from 4 pm, ending with pizza or a counter meal; it is a most pleasant time of the day to play in the warmer weather. Other days are occupied with either, East Launceston Croquet Club competitions, pennants for Latrobe's home games in the statewide competition, NRCC Association Croquet competitions or social and practices sessions available to all members.





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CURRENT and UPCOMING EVENTS

State-wide GC Pennant	In progress. 5 games being played at NTasCC.
Mayoral Challenge	6 th March at 4 pm. All members are invited.
Easter Tournament	20-23 rd April 2019. The Launceston City Council has donated \$1,250 towards this event and St Lukes has donated \$500. A major raffle will be held to coincide with this occasion. Members are encouraged to get their entries in.

TCA men's and women's GC Open 26-28th April, are to be played at the Centre which offers better co-ordination of Selectors, TM and referees. Work is being carried out to ensure the lawns are at the required standard for this event.

Interstate Shield to be held at the Centre in 2020. All upgrades and improvements contribute to the preparation for this national event.

The Centre has received 2 sets of Quad Hoops, funded by Ross Hart Stronger Communities Program. In addition St. Leonards Croquet Club has offered NTCC the use of their set of Quad Hoops, making 3 sets available for users, new balls have been purchased. These all add to the appeal of the venue for further tournaments and competitions, state-wide and interstate.

FUND RAISING and PROMOTION

- The Centre is available for private functions outside regular playing times. The Ramblers Group has booked for a function on the 1st March, 2019. NTasCC's fundraising committee will be catering for this occasion.
- Exhibitions of Croquet have been held at the Launceston Show and one is planned at the Franklin Village Fair in March 2019, arranged by energetic promotions officer Lee Turner and assisted by volunteer members to help promote the game to the general public, these demonstrations have always proved successful.
- The addition of the deck shelter at the Centre now offers protection from the elements and a useful undercover entertainment area.
- The club rooms have had a spruce up with the shampooing of the carpet, windows washed and even new mugs. It is gratifying that the users of the Centre observe the need to maintain the premises in a clean and tidy condition. It always emits a sense of pride.
- NTasCC provides all conveniences available to users, including service utilities, insurance, housekeeping requirements, stationery, tea, coffee, biscuits etc. With a budget of \$5,000 per annum.



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We have an energetic army of volunteers from all the affiliated clubs contributing to the running of the Centre; grounds persons, members, fund raisers and promoters to name just a few. Their efforts are an essential component in the continuation and development of the Northern Tasmanian Centre. A big 'thank you' to all.

CONSTITUTION

The Management Committee is currently working on a revised Constitution. Once a final draft has been drawn up it will be distributed to the affiliated clubs for their scrutiny. This step has been taken in an attempt to address 'grey areas' that are currently causing contention. Such as, interpretation of 'members' and 'who has the right to vote'.

The NTasCC's aim is to have a facility of high quality, with a safe and amicable environment for all users, including the competition player, the social player and other participants who just enjoy playing the game of Croquet.....and, that's what it's all about.

