



CROQUET MATTERS

MAY 2021

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Chief Executive



Welcome to the May 2021 Croquet Matters.

The past weekend has seen some horrible weather hit New Zealand. I hope those croquet members and their families

which are in the hardest hit places are keeping safe!

This month’s edition introduces you further to our new Board Members, provides information on the 2020-21 CNZ Award nomination process and has a look at what some of the clubs around New Zealand have been doing.

Jake Inwood

CNZ Board Update

In the April edition of Croquet Matters, Croquet New Zealand announced that Rachel Batty, Judith Hanratty and Michael Lulich had joined the Board.

We are pleased to introduce you to each of our new Board members a little more this month.

Rachel Batty



Rachel is a Senior Lecturer in Sport Management at Massey University in Auckland.

Rachel holds a Bachelors degree in Sport and Recreation (Community Sport), Master’s in Urban Recreation, and PhD in Sport Stakeholder

Management.

After spending time helping a variety of sports in advisory, operational and governance roles over the past 20 years, Rachel brings with her a wealth of knowledge in the sport and recreation sector.

To read Rachel’s full bio, click [here](#).

Judith Hanratty CVO OBE



Judith has represented New Zealand in golf and was part of the Board of England Golf following the merger of the men's and women's governing bodies.

While Judith's early career was in law, she has spent time on the Boards of companies that have been

listed on the London and New York Stock Exchanges in the energy and insurance sectors.

In 2002, Judith was awarded an OBE for her services to the oil and gas industry in the UK; and in 2007 she was appointed by HM The Queen to be a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

Judith is also a member of the Croquet Association in the UK.

To read Judith's full bio, click [here](#).

Michael Lulich



Michael is an active member and Patron of the Petone-Central Croquet Club in Wellington.

Although currently working for the New Zealand Defence Force, Michael has previously been a City Councillor of Lower Hutt and serves on a number of local Community Boards including Petone and Eastbourne.

Through these roles, Michael has gained valuable knowledge and experience in media and public relations.

To read Michael's full bio, click [here](#).

2020-21 Croquet New Zealand Awards

Nominations for the 2020-21 Croquet New Zealand annual awards are now open.

Nominations can be made by an Association, a Club or by any two financial members of a club.

Croquet New Zealand encourages everyone to nominate anyone that they believe are worthy of recognition for their achievements.

To get a nomination form, click [here](#) or click on the award title below.

2020-21 Award Categories:

[Player of the Year](#)

[Most Improved AC Player](#)

[Most Improved GC Player](#)

[Volunteer of the Year](#)

[Contribution to Croquet Award](#)

All nominations are to be sent to croquet@croquet.org.nz by 5pm on Wednesday, 30th June 2021.

Club News

Morrinsville Croquet Club supporting the Cancer Society



*Morrinsville annual Cancer Tournament.
Photo credit: Clem Apted*

On April 17 2021 the Morrinsville Croquet Club held its annual Cancer Tournament which was sponsored this year by Morrinsville Property Brokers.

There was a full field in this tournament with the winners being Paul Warner & Barry Jenkin (Morrinsville) in section 1, Judy Blyth (Morrinsville) & Astrid Whitwell (Mount Maunganui) in section 2 and Dawnry Slavich & Heather Prince (Paeroa) in section 3.

A good tournament was had by all and \$758 was raised and donated to the NZ Cancer Society. The photo shows all the competitors before the event.

Barry Memorial Croquet Club celebrates world croquet day



Barry Memorial Croquet Club celebrating world croquet day

Barry Memorial Croquet Club was one of the first in the world to celebrate world croquet day (1st May). Being the most easterly positioned city, those at Barry Memorial Croquet Club in Gisborne celebrated in style.

Play started in the dark before having a cooked breakfast consisting of bacon, eggs, baked beans and croissants to mark the occasion.



Play got underway early on the 1st of May at Barry Memorial Croquet Club

Historic portrait of Kelburn Croquet Club's founder preserved



Mrs Lily McVilly

After hanging for nearly 100 years in the Kelburn Municipal Croquet Club's historic pavilion, a large 1920s photographic portrait of the club's founding president, Mrs Lily McVilly, has been professionally restored and will be lodged with the Alexander Turnbull Library.

But Mrs McVilly has not left the building. A digital copy commemorates the forceful woman who battled Wellington City Council for some years from around 1909 for a suitable location in Kelburn to play croquet.

The Club's centennial history tells how "a deputation of Kelburn ladies" led by Mrs McVilly pursued the Council until finally winning the right, in 1913, to "practise croquet at Kelburn Park on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons between 1.00 and 4.00 pm".

However, there were ongoing complaints about the state of the lawns for croquet. Worse, players were too close to the cricket grounds and croquet players occasionally sustained injuries from cricket balls, sometimes ending up in hospital.

By the early 1920's, persistence had led to the eventual establishment of the current club on Salamanca Road, with five playing lawns.

Mrs McVilly was also the foundation vice-president of the Wellington Croquet Association, in 1919, and a leading light in the Wellington Women's Club.

She presented the photographic portrait of herself to the Kelburn Croquet Club in 1924, where it hung until it began showing signs of deterioration.

Kelburn Croquet Club members were determined to forestall any further deterioration and to preserve the historical significance embedded in the portrait by well-known early Wellington photographer Stanley Polkinghorne Andrews. The club commissioned Wellington conservator Diana Coop to copy, restore and preserve the original print for archiving by the Alexander Turnbull Library.

A commemorative 'afternoon tea for Mrs McV' was held at Kelburn Croquet Club at the end of April 2021, where the effort to get the portrait restored and archived was outlined by project lead, Lisa Thompson, followed by conservator Diane Coop describing the restoration process, and the club's honorary archivist Deirdre Wogan, who brought the club's early history to life.



Conservator, Diana Coop, addressing the afternoon tea at Kelburn Croquet Club