



# CROQUET NEW ZEALAND RESET & REBUILD TOUR

2020-21

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## Background

Covid-19 emerged on New Zealand shores in early 2020 and quickly disrupted the *'normal'* way of life. With New Zealand going into lockdown on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, there was plenty of uncertainty around the impact this would have on the economy and what impact it might have on sporting organisations as we exited lockdown into the "new-world".

To assist with the Play, Active Recreation and Sport Sector's response to the challenges of Covid-19, Sport New Zealand put together a proposal which sought to inject \$265million into the Sector through three main categories;

- Reset and Rebuild
- Strengthen and Adapt
- Different and Better

This report focusses on the funding Croquet New Zealand received from Sport New Zealand to assist with the initial response through the Reset and Rebuild category.

## Covid-19 Response

Although a number of tournaments were cancelled due to the Covid-19 lockdown, Croquet New Zealand was able to continue to function, with minimal impact on productivity, due to both the Chief Executive and Sport Development Officer being equipped to work remotely and Croquet New Zealand having sufficient cash reserves to manage through this period.

Throughout this period, Croquet New Zealand actively sought ways to support affiliated Associations. Proactively sending updates regarding Covid-19 Alert Level restrictions when they became available through Sport New Zealand and advocating on behalf of croquet with Government agencies, in particular around allowing greenkeepers to maintain croquet lawns during Covid-19 Alert Level 4.

Due to the uncertainty that arose with the Covid-19 lockdown, Croquet New Zealand set a conservative budget and was looking for ways to support Associations and Clubs as they re-opened for the 2020-21 season. Croquet Associations and Clubs ably stepped up to the challenges presented by Covid-19 and were able to open in time for the 2020-21 season, implementing new processes and procedures to ensure their members were kept safe while enjoying croquet. This strong response enabled Clubs to replace equipment as required and schedule lawn maintenance, as well as ensuring croquet membership grew for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

Through the support of Sport New Zealand, the Reset & Rebuild Tour was established and was carried out between March and May 2021.

## Reset & Rebuild Tour Purpose

The Covid-19 Pandemic caused many challenges throughout New Zealand with the Play, Active Recreation and Sport Sector not escaping these. The timing of the pandemic played a massive role in how severely an individual sport was impacted, whether they were a winter or a summer sport for example.

Through the Reset & Rebuild fund from Sport New Zealand, Croquet New Zealand embarked on a process to understand the full impact of Covid-19 on croquet. To ensure Croquet New Zealand fully understood the challenges facing Associations and Clubs, the Reset & Rebuild Tour was designed to allow the Sport Development Officer to visit each of the 19 Associations.

The purpose of the Reset & Rebuild Tour can be broken into four (4) key components. These are;

- Confirm that clubs are continuing to operate in a safe manner under the various Covid-19 Alert Levels.
- Identify and address local issues arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns.
- Promote the objectives and activities of the Croquet New Zealand Reorientation Strategy.
- Promote membership participation and growth through the Club Participation Award mechanism and supporting Croquet New Zealand development programmes.

In conjunction with the above objectives, Association Croquet and Golf Croquet coaching sessions were also held by the Sport Development Officer.

The intention of the above objectives was to ensure Club survival and encourage Clubs to build vibrant, active Clubs that will assist with their ongoing growth and development.

## Disclaimer

Due to Auckland ascending to Covid Alert Level 3 in March 2021, and the rest of the country moving to Covid Alert Level 2, sessions in Southland and Dunedin were postponed. The session in Nelson was also postponed so that all Croquet New Zealand staff could attend the memorial service for Croquet New Zealand Life Member, Paul Skinley.

The decision to postpone the Southland and Dunedin sessions was in line with Croquet New Zealand's policy to suspend all activities under Covid Alert Level 2. These sessions will be completed in early 2021-22 along with the session in Nelson.

A survey was sent to all members that provided legible email addresses on the sign-in form for the Reset & Rebuild Presentation. It was identified when downloading the survey results that the survey may not have been sent to the Paeroa attendees. A summary of the responses received can be found later in this report.

## Financial

Through the Reset & Rebuild funding in the Sport New Zealand \$265million Covid response budget, Croquet New Zealand received \$5,000 to utilise as they best saw fit to help croquet recover from the Covid-19 enforced lockdown.

The financials relating to this project are below:

2020-21 Reset & Rebuild Tour Financials	
<b>INCOME</b>	
Sport New Zealand (2020-21)	\$4,211
Sport New Zealand (2021-22)	\$789
Total Income	\$5,000
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Accommodation	\$4,523
Travel	\$2,381
Other	\$377
2021-22 Budget	\$1,500
Total Expenses	\$8,781
CNZ Contribution	\$3,781

## Coaching

The coaching sessions carried out during this course were added to the Reset & Rebuild Tour as a way of Croquet New Zealand contributing to increasing the vibrancy in clubs.

Previously, Clubs have indicated that they enjoy the coaching provided by the Sport Development Officer. While this is not the method Croquet New Zealand would like to continue moving forward, the Reset & Rebuild Tour provided an opportunity to do this coaching.

Throughout the Tour, 50 coaching sessions were run. These sessions reached 792 participants with a full breakdown included in Appendix 2.

While feedback was not sought from individual attendees about these sessions, Croquet New Zealand did receive feedback from several Clubs and Associations. The feedback largely aligned to Croquet New Zealand's current practice of developing coaches through the Level 1 Coaching Coaches Workshop and having them deliver more regular coaching sessions specifically developed for the needs of those attendees.

In response to this feedback, more information on the Coaching Coaches Workshops was sent to Associations encouraging them to contact Croquet New Zealand if they have members wanting to go through this course. In addition to this, the Coaching section on the website has been updated to have current information on the Coaching Coaches programme.

## R&R Presentation

### Content

As outlined earlier in this report, the purpose of the Reset & Rebuild Tour was to establish the full impact of Covid-19 on croquet around New Zealand while also stimulating conversation on how Clubs can position themselves to respond strongly.

The presentation covered key aspects including;

- The Government's Response. Including the \$265million injection into the Play, Active Recreation and Sport Sector to support Sport New Zealand's approach which covered three areas.
  - Reset and Rebuild (initial response)
  - Strength and Adapt (Medium term)
  - Different and Better (New approaches)
- Croquet New Zealand's response. Including the adoption of a 1-year strategy, communication and development of tournament guidelines.
- Club Impacts / Discussions
  - What were the immediate impacts? How has the Club responded?
  - What needs to be done to continue operating in the medium term?
  - What can be done to engage members and continue to grow?

This session was designed to be informative and interactive to help stimulate discussion and ideas to assist croquet Clubs in the *new normal*, following the emergence of Covid 19.

The full slides are available on the Croquet New Zealand website, [here](#).

### Feedback

Following the presentation, attendees were sent a survey to gauge an understanding of the croquet community's opinion on how Croquet New Zealand operated during the pandemic and how beneficial the presentation was.

As outlined in Appendix 1, Croquet New Zealand received 75 responses to the survey. This represents 17 Associations (note Nelson did not have their session during the survey period) and 30% of attendees.

There was a strong representation of attendees holding various roles within the Clubs as illustrated in the table to the right which will ensure clubs are able to take something away from the presentation.

The other members were made up of people holding various positions including Vice-President, Grounds-person, Coach and Handicapper among others.

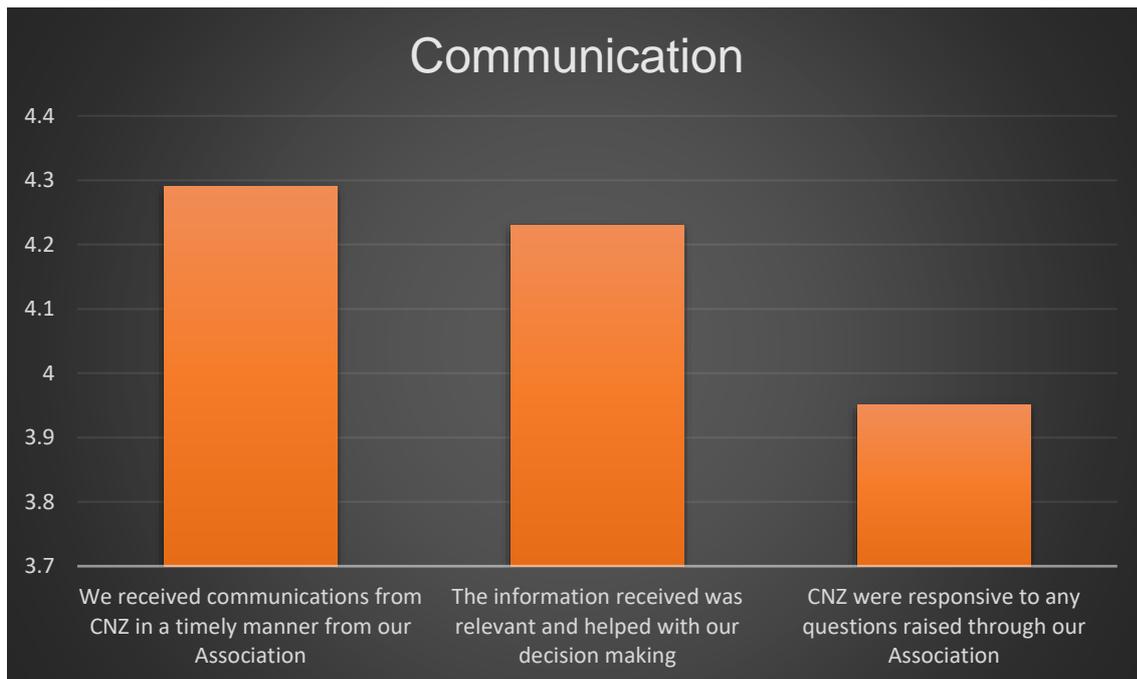
Role	Number	Percentage
President	9	12%
Secretary	7	9.33%
Treasurer	8	10.67%
Club Captain	10	13.33%
Club Member	23	30.67%
Other	18	24%

The graphs below illustrate the responses Croquet New Zealand received to specific sections. The scoring system was based on a scale from 1 (strongly disagree with the statement) to 5 (strongly agree with the statement). The graphs show the weighted average of all responses for each question.

## Croquet New Zealand Communication

Croquet New Zealand endeavoured to provide informative information to Associations in a timely manner to ensure they could support their Clubs. While acknowledging that it is mainly Clubs responding to this survey, the scores relating to timely (4.29) and informative (4.23) demonstrate Croquet New Zealand and Associations supported Clubs well.

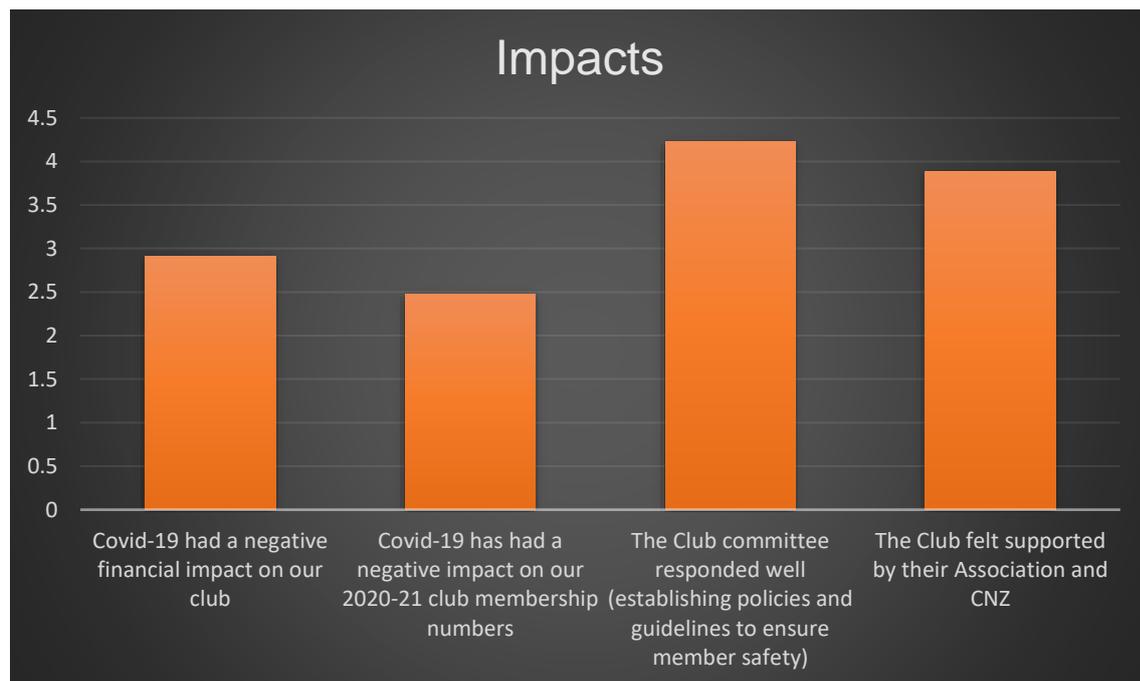
Unfortunately, due to the nature of the survey, it is not clear what questions individuals felt were not addressed by Croquet New Zealand. Croquet New Zealand attempted to respond to all queries raised in a timely manner and sought answers through other agencies, such as Sport New Zealand, when we were in a position where we did not have all of the facts to provide a complete response.



## Club Impact

It is pleasing to see that many of the respondent thought their Clubs responded well to the Covid-19 Pandemic (4.23). It has been noted that more could have been done to ensure clubs felt supported by Associations and Croquet New Zealand (3.89). This was a challenging period for all levels of croquet and the overall response is something the sport should be proud of.

The majority of responses suggested that Covid-19 either did not have a negative impact on their Clubs membership or they neither agreed or disagreed with the statement. This resulted in the lowest score of the survey, 2.48. This score aligns with what is seen in the 2020-21 membership numbers which grew by 0.6% from 2019-20.



## Other Impacts:

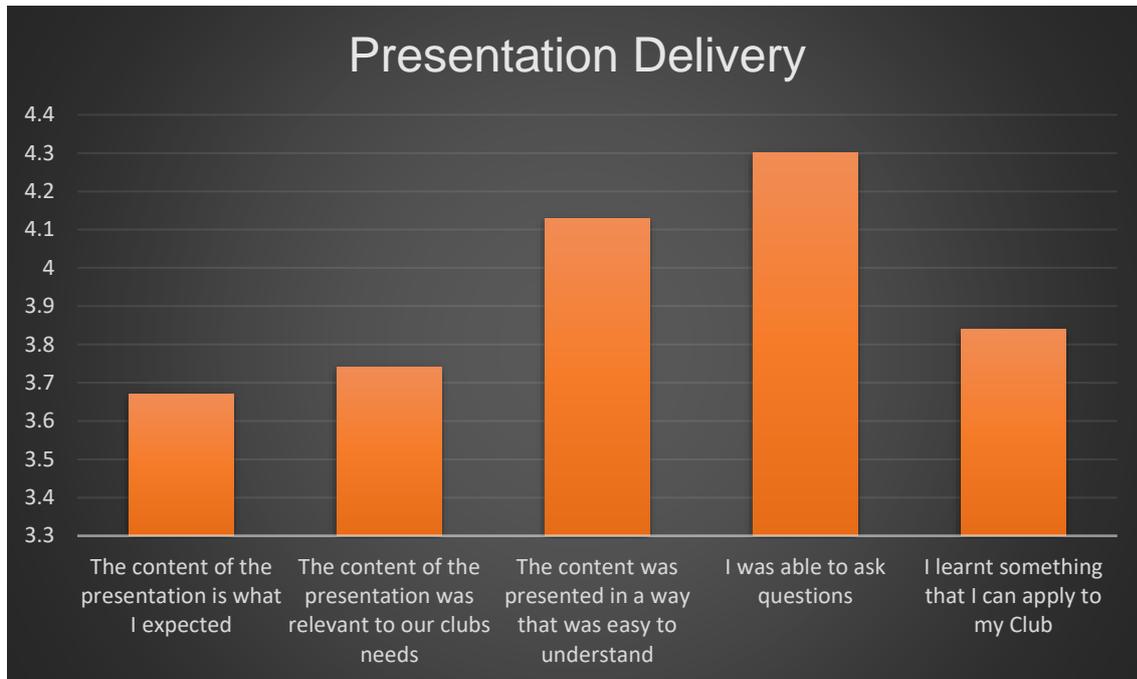
Individuals were asked to provide information on other aspects that provided challenges to the club which were not associated with membership numbers or financials.

The most common response was around the lawn maintenance, particularly during the early stages of the Covid-19 Alert Level 4 lockdown. Croquet New Zealand worked tirelessly with Sport New Zealand, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and other National Sports Organisations to seek clarity and enable Clubs to maintain their lawns during the lockdown.

## Reset & Rebuild Presentation

Croquet New Zealand strives to provide presentations that include relevant content, which is easy to understand, and is delivered in an environment that individuals feel comfortable to ask questions to ensure they get the most out of the session. The graph below illustrates that this was achieved.

A pleasing aspect is that 45 individuals agreed to some degree that they learnt something during this workshop that they could apply to their club. This will assist with club development, sustainability and ultimately growing the sport in New Zealand.



## Sport Development Officer's Report

In addition to the survey feedback from attendees, the Sport Development Officer has provided their feedback on the objects which is outlined below.

- Confirm that clubs are continuing to operate in a safe manner under the various Covid-19 Alert Levels.

SDO: All clubs are confident about facilitating modified participation at club level under Covid Alert Level 1 and 2 environments according to the Government guidelines. A small number of clubs have also maintained limited access to facilities under Covid Alert Level 3 and have appropriate Health & Safety protocols in place.

- Identify and address local issues arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns.

SDO: Lawn maintenance programmes have been affected at a small number of clubs but there are no mid to long term concerns. Those affected have accessed relief support where required and/or have recovery programmes in place.

There is widespread support for an updated version of the "Establishment and Maintenance of Croquet Lawns in New Zealand" publication.

Clubs and Associations are very appreciative of the updates and information pertaining to Covid-19 and lockdown status that has been provided by Croquet New Zealand on a regular basis.

- Promote the objectives and activities of the Croquet New Zealand Reorientation Strategy.  
SDO: Members are generally supportive of the Reorientation Strategy and are sympathetic towards Croquet New Zealand's position regarding lockdown restrictions and reorientation policies.

There are no concerns to report regarding the objectives or status of activities within the Croquet New Zealand Reorientation Strategy.

Some members questioned the current Level 1 requirement for Croquet New Zealand events but are agreeable that upholding the safety of members is paramount.

- Promote membership participation and growth through the Club Participation Award mechanism and supporting Croquet New Zealand development programmes.

SDO: The Club Participation Award criteria supports Croquet New Zealand strategic objectives and healthy, developing club environments. Participation in Arthur Ross and Don Reyland Stars club level competitions has been promoted as a way that every individual member can compete in a Croquet New Zealand event and contribute to the overall wellbeing of croquet in New Zealand.

As Croquet New Zealand's two 'participation focus' events, a reporting mechanism via the Club Participation Award provides an opportunity to report participation growth at the local community level against Croquet New Zealand strategic objectives, and to our stakeholders.

Any increase in the number of clubs participating in this annual award, in setting benchmarks in 2021-22 and increasing club scores across all award criteria from 2022 onward will provide an indication of the success of the Reset & Rebuild initiative.

## Appendix 1: Reset & Rebuild Session Numbers

	<b># Of Sessions</b>	<b># Of Attendees</b>	<b>Survey Responses</b>
<b>Auckland</b>	2	20	6
<b>Bay of Plenty</b>	2	11	2
<b>Canterbury</b>	2	15	8
<b>Counties-Manukau</b>	1	5	1
<b>Hawkes Bay</b>	2	29	8
<b>Manawatu-Wanganui</b>	2	20	4
<b>Marlborough</b>	1	6	1
<b>Nelson</b>	0	0	0
<b>Northland</b>	2	43	3
<b>Otago</b>	2	25	14
<b>South Canterbury</b>	1	7	2
<b>Southland</b>	0	0	1
<b>South Taranaki</b>	1	8	3
<b>Taranaki</b>	1	2	1
<b>Thames Valley</b>	1	32	0
<b>Waikato-King Country</b>	1	24	4
<b>Wairarapa</b>	1	7	3
<b>Wellington</b>	2	26	13
<b>West Coast</b>	1	5	1
		<b>285</b>	<b>75</b>

## Appendix 2: Coaching Session Numbers

	<b>Intro to AC</b>	<b>GC Coaching</b>	<b>AC Coaching</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Auckland</b>	0	62	17	79
<b>Bay of Plenty</b>	0	37	7	44
<b>Canterbury</b>	0	52	12	64
<b>Counties-Manukau</b>	0	17	6	23
<b>Hawkes Bay</b>	0	58	5	63
<b>Manawatu-Wanganui</b>	0	55	18	73
<b>Marlborough</b>	0	17	6	23
<b>Nelson</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Northland</b>	0	46	9	55
<b>Otago</b>	5	28	18	51
<b>South Canterbury</b>	0	25	5	30
<b>Southland</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>South Taranaki</b>	0	17	4	21
<b>Taranaki</b>	0	34	7	41
<b>Thames Valley</b>	0	32	8	40
<b>Waikato-King Country</b>	0	36	8	44
<b>Wairarapa</b>	0	31	11	42
<b>Wellington</b>	0	62	27	89
<b>West Coast</b>	0	6	4	10
	5	615	172	792