



CROQUET MATTERS

Summer 2025-26

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Chief Executive

Welcome to the Croquet New Zealand Newsletter!

In early December we welcomed our new CNZ Board, which sees six elected members from three Electoral Districts ensuring representation from across the country.

November and December were busy tournament months with four invitation events, the North Island AC Championships as well as

the Terminator Mallets U21 GC Championships being held.

While the recruitment of the next Chief Executive continues, in other staff news I am sad to advise that our Office Administrator Anyes has left CNZ to return to France. While it is a significant loss for CNZ it is the right decision for her and her family and I am wishing her all the best for the future.

We also share some exciting club celebrations with Te Aroha Croquet Club celebrating 140 years of playing croquet in the small Waikato town, and North Shore Croquet Club celebrating its 120th anniversary.

I am wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season with family and friends!

Stefan Horrer

Croquet NZ News

CNZ Board Election

Following the adoption of the new CNZ Constitution at the AGM, the election of a new Board of CNZ commenced. The following candidates have been elected in their respective Electoral Districts.

North A – Richard Dimmock (Auckland)

North B – Ivan Smith (Waikato-King Country)

Central A – Ian Parker (Bay of Plenty)

South A – Peter Burt (Marlborough Nelson West Coast)

South B – John Borner (Canterbury)

The new Board took authority at the beginning of December and is responsible for shaping the next phase of CNZ's development and growth.

The election left a vacancy in Electoral District Central, which the new Board filled by appointing outgoing Board Member Graeme Roberts (Wellington) to the Board. Graeme was also elected Board Chair to ensure continuity during this transition phase. Congratulations to the newly elected Board Members!

Chief Executive Recruitment

The recruitment process for the next Chief Executive is underway and CNZ will make an announcement in due course.

Office Administrator

Unfortunately, our Office Administrator Anyes has decided to return to France for family reasons. Anyes has been a critical part of our team supporting associations and clubs, the Tournament and Laws Committees, our Sport Development Officer and of course me.

Her commitment, work ethic and her humour will be sorely missed.

The next Chief Executive will have the opportunity to find a replacement and shape the role.

CNZ Tournaments

Tournament Calendar

The 2025/26 CNZ tournament calendar can be found [here](#). To register follow the links below.

[CNZ Tournament Entries](#)

2025-26 Tournaments

Women's AC Invitation

Miranda Chapman wins her first Women's AC Invitation. Last year's winner, **Pip Rive** remains on the podium as the Runner-up.



Runner-up Pip Rive (left) and Winner Miranda Chapman (right).

See full report [here](#).

GC Invitations

The GC Invitation events were held in late November across Christchurch and Ashburton.

Top GC Winner: **Levi Franks**

Second GC Winner: **Jonathan Hart**

Third GC Winner: **Teresa Ponsonby**

Congratulations to all selected players!

See full report [here](#).

North Island AC Championships

The North Island AC Championships were held in Whakatane from 3 to 7 December, which saw Paddy Chapman win both the doubles event, with partner Greg Bryant, and the singles event. These were Paddy's first North Island AC titles.

See full report [here](#).

Under 21 GC Championships

New Plymouth Croquet Club hosted the Terminator Mallets U21 GC Championships from 12 to 16 December. Australian player Ethan Gumbrell won the doubles event with partner Mattie Clarkson (Counties Manukau), and reached the final in the singles event.



Doubles Winners Mattie Clarkson & Ethan Gumbrell

Unfortunately, torrential rain flooded the lawns just before the final and it had to be abandoned. Luke Francis (Central Districts) and Gumbrell were declared joint winners.

See full report [here](#).

Upcoming Tournaments

January will see both AC and GC Open Championships.

World Croquet Federation

Management Committee

The WCF Management Committee will change slightly from 1 January 2026 following the recent elections.

Details can be found [here](#).

Association & Club News

Te Aroha – 140 years of croquet

Exciting news from Waikato! Heritage New Zealand recognises Te Aroha as the only town in New Zealand that has continuously hosted croquet since 1885, an unrivalled record!



Te Aroha Domain 1886

See the full article [here](#).

North Shore CC celebrates 120 years

A lot of preparation, research and dedication went into making this anniversary memorable! Special guests, side-saddle play, best-dressed competition, twilight barbeque: the recipe for a beautiful celebration!



See more pictures and the full article [here](#).

If you or your club has any unique news that you would like to see in *Croquet Matters*, please send your articles and photos to us [here](#).

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