

# **CANBERRA CROQUET CLUB CROQUET & GATEBALL ORGANISATIONS**

This paper is designed to give a thumb-nail sketch of the Croquet and Gateball world and some of the activities which happen outside Canberra.

## **THE STATE LEVEL**

All States in Australia have their own Croquet Association. The ACT is part of the New South Wales Association (Croquet NSW) (web site <http://www.croquet-nsw.com/>).

Throughout Australia all playing members of croquet clubs are required to be affiliated to their State body. As well as allowing players to have an official handicap and to play in tournaments run by States and other clubs, this also ensures that players are covered by the national insurance scheme.

Croquet NSW, and most States, have their own headquarters courts. The Croquet NSW headquarters is at Tempe, just off the Princes Highway, between the city and the airport. Every year, Croquet NSW issues a Handbook that lists all affiliated clubs and the names, addresses and phone numbers of all members. There are also details of State and Club tournaments, officials, coaches and referees. There is a copy of this yearbook in the club house.

Most State events are normally round-robin which means that everyone is guaranteed a specific number of games. If you are about travelling around the State or the country you are always welcome to play socially at different clubs and also participate in a wide range of tournaments.

The noticeboards in the club have flyers with details of forthcoming tournaments at other clubs in NSW and nationally.

## **NATIONAL LEVEL**

Prior to World War Two, each State operated autonomously with Victoria, as the largest croquet State, organising the few international events which were played. In 1949 a national body was established, the Australian Croquet Association, which goes under the name of Croquet Australia (web site <http://www.croquet-australia.com.au/>).

Croquet Australia is responsible for arranging international events, conducting national championships and developing national standards for refereeing and coaching.

The major national tournaments (unless specified these are Association Croquet events) are:

Australian Open Singles and Doubles	Restricted handicaps – refer Croquet Australia website
Interstate (Eire) Cup & Men's and Women's Singles	Restricted handicaps – refer Croquet Australia website
National Handicap	Open to all handicap levels
National Golf Croquet	Open to all handicap levels
Interstate Golf Croquet	Restricted to state teams

Croquet participates in the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme which involves around 70 sports and over 10,000 accredited coaches; we have around 300 croquet coaches. There are various levels of coaches: Beginner, Levels 1, 2 and 3. Players interested in becoming a coach are required to study both the general principles of coaching as well as the sports specific aspects. Information on the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme can be found on the Croquet Australia website at: <http://www.croquet-australia.com.au/Coaching/coaching.html>.

A national refereeing system provides for players to become Referees or Umpires after sitting for appropriate examinations. All players are encouraged to become an Umpire, and should consider becoming a full Referee. Information on the National Refereeing system can be found on the Croquet Australia website at:

<http://www.croquet-australia.com.au/Referees/referees.html>.

## **INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

### ***The MacRobertson Shield***

In 1925 Australia played the first international association croquet tournament, which was against England. The Melbourne philanthropist, Sir MacPherson Robertson, of chocolate fame and an avid player, presented a trophy for this event and the MacRobertson Shield has been played for ever since. The event was quickly expanded to include New Zealand, and in 1993 the USA was brought in.

The event now called *The Croquet World Series for the MacRobertson Shield* is played every 3 or 4 years. In 2003, the event was held in Florida (USA), and in October 2006 at Moama & Shepparton (Australia). In 2010 the event will be in the UK and in 2014 in NZ.

Each team comprises 6 players. The event is completely open and although in recent years most of the players have been men, women have been selected in both the English and Australian teams in recent years. The last time Australia won was in 1935!

### ***Trans-Tasman Events***

In addition to the World Croquet Series, Australia and New Zealand play regular Trans-Tasman events involving teams of 4 men and 4 women.

### ***World Croquet Federation (WCF)***

The World Croquet Federation (<http://www.wcfcroquet.org/>) was established in 1987 with the aim of encouraging, promoting and developing the recognised versions of the game of croquet. In 1989, the first singles World Championship competition was held and is now generally held every few years. All WCF member countries are eligible to have at least one member play in these events, while additional places are granted based on the world ranking of the players. Australia's last hosting of the event was in 1997 in Bunbury, Western Australia. No Australian player has ever won the World Championship.

The WCF also organises international Golf Croquet events.

### ***World Gateball Union (WGU)***

The World Gateball Union is responsible for organising international Gateball events and championships.