

More than Just Croquet: A Caring Club

We have a rich and supportive social life at Busselton Croquet Club. Most of us are card-carrying senior citizens from a wide variety of backgrounds. We have retired farmers, health professionals, teachers, business people, tradies, engineers, accountants ... so on ad infinitum. The Edwardian ladies of yesteryear (See **Origins of Croquet** page) have long gone, and with them, the elitist and gendered associations of croquet. We now have equal numbers of men and women.

We are very friendly and unpretentious.

We have a morning tea break to meet and greet and have a cup of tea or coffee and maybe a cake or two if Janie, or others have been baking. There's a lot of laughter on the lawns. Golf Croquet can produce some amusing and ludicrous sights.

Major social occasions celebrate Christmas and the Melbourne Cup and we participate in The Geographe Challenge twice a year against Dunsborough Croquet Club. Major birthdays are also celebrated (if their owners let on). And we keep tabs on any who suffer illness, or accident. We are a caring club.

Melbourne Cup 2022



We also run our annual doubles and singles championships -more occasions for celebration. A recent initiative from our club captain to reward, with a lottery "scratchy" card, a weekly winner in jump-shot, in-off and long-shot categories, has led to a lot of fun and a big improvement in general play.

Morning Tea and Scratchies Presentation



Nearly all work at the club is carried out by the members. We have a large enough membership (currently over 80) to allow us to employ a groundsman and a cleaner, but other jobs, such as gardening, catering and ongoing cleaning and maintenance are shared. See the **Partial History** page for a record of the huge volunteer effort in re-configuring the lawns and erecting a new clubhouse.

It's all good for the body and soul.



P.S. There's quite a lot of walking involved in golf croquet especially in singles. As your game improves, you are likely to do a lot more. It's not as hard on the body as golf and it does make demands on the mind – it allows you to make stupid decisions, or smart ones and that's no bad thing either.