



**HOWLONG**  
**GOLF RESORT**  
**CROQUET**

# **Howlong Golf Resort Croquet Development, Infrastructure and History**

Compiled by Doug Nielsen  
Croquet Committee Member  
Issue 1 December 2019

## **Introduction**

This document details the establishment of croquet at Howlong from 2014 onwards along with documented records of the history of croquet at Howlong to date. As further developments are progressed this document will be updated accordingly and as such all details contained herein are not finite.

## **Overview**

The Howlong Golf Resort Croquet is situated within the precinct of the golf club and is located off East Street Howlong adjacent to the golf driving range. The club was established five years ago as a new venture and consists of three full size playing courts which were established financially by grants and donations with the physical layout and construction carried out by the staff of the Howlong Golf Resort and further assistance by members of the community and croquet members.

Howlong Croquet is affiliated with the North Eastern Croquet Association under the auspices of the Victorian Croquet Association and in turn the Australian and World Croquet bodies.

The prime strategy of the club is to provide an avenue for all residents of all ages within the Howlong community to participate in social games and as skills of individuals develop the opportunity to become involved in competitions with other associations and clubs.

Howlong croquet as a body is under the direction of the management of the Howlong Golf Resort and in this regard the croquet committee will promote, organise activities and events and will utilise the facilities of the golf club for meals and beverages and social and other events that may be organised from time to time.

The committee and members of Howlong croquet all act in voluntary capacities and all members are resolute in further developing and building the membership along with fund raising for the purchase of new equipment as required and lastly but not least by injecting raised funds into the Howlong Golf Resort as on-going support.

As a "team" we can all work together for the further development of the sport of croquet within the community.

## **Croquet Committee**

The committee was formally established as per the by-law hereunder on 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 which included two motions to create membership categories and the by-law 01.02.16 establishing the Committee.

In accordance with the Howlong Golf Resort By-Law 01.02.16 the committee is responsible for all operational elements associated with the running of croquet at the Howlong Golf Resort

### **Specific Responsibilities**

1. Developing and monitoring the processes for the measurement of playing members with a performance report to be forwarded to the Board on a seasonal basis
2. Recommending competition and green fee movements to the Board
3. Developing and monitoring a playing program
4. Organising a social and competition croquet program
5. Ensuring that the croquet playing conditions conform to the rules established by the Croquet Peak Council, from time to time

6. Settling all questions and disputes relating to the competitions and/or the rules of croquet
7. Ensuring compliance with croquet etiquette
8. Compiling information relevant to the preparation of the croquet playing surfaces, the rules of the game and the general tactics employed during play
9. Liaising with other croquet clubs and arranging competitions
10. Keeping the financial accounts and records of the Club in conjunction with the Howlong Golf Resorts' administration

### **Complement of the Committee**

The Croquet Committee shall be comprised of

- the President (Chairman)
- the Deputy Chairman
- the Secretary
- the Treasurer
- 3 committee members elected by the Annual Meeting of the Committee
- The election of Office Bearers and the Committee shall be conducted at the Annual meeting of Croquet members to be held at a time and date in the month of April each year.

### **Establishment of Croquet at Howlong**

The club commenced play on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2015 with the initial games being played on the golf driving range on an informal basis as a come and try day. The issue of using the golf driving range for a limited time during the week was never going to be an ideal long term solution for croquet and particularly in the event of an accident occurring to any croquet member from golf balls.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2015 the inaugural meeting of Howlong Golf Resort Croquet was held to formally establish croquet at Howlong. The objectives established at this first meeting were:-

- 1) To form a croquet club under the umbrella of the Howlong Golf Resort. The Resort has the ideal facilities available for the immediate use of a croquet court. Perhaps the Golf Resort could also find where a permanent court could be set up.
- 2) Croquet is a non-contact sport and the basics are quickly learnt and is recommended for people requiring a less active sport.
- 3) It is anticipated that our club will hold social days of play and when the sub club is fully operational that other croquet clubs will be invited here to play. This will hopefully mean the mother club should receive some financial rewards as well.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2015 the Croquet Committee was advised by the then named Howlong Country Golf Club and following on from a meeting of the Greens Co-Ordination Committee held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2015 that the establishment of two full size courts would be undertaken. Details and positioning of the courts were subsequently documented and along with advised costs the first two courts were

established in the current area to the west side of the driving range along the boundary of East Street. Estimated costs were documented at \$4800 which included irrigation, soil spreading and labour of which \$2000 was paid by Howlong Croquet. The establishment of a third full size court would be subject to additional costs to be borne by Howlong Croquet and by further discussions with sectors of the golf club administration.

As time progressed during development a costing was received from the Howlong Golf Resort for Croquet Court Renovation to the total of \$25,945. These costs were offset by a NSW Community Building Partnership Grant to Howlong Croquet of \$20,944 along with \$6,901 from sponsorship which included \$6000 from the Howlong Opportunity Shop and two other generous benefactors. Subsequent to advice of these renovations the courts were closed from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2018 until mid-January 2019.

During March 2019 further work was undertaken to relay turf on the number three court adjacent to the equipment shed. This was undertaken by golf club staff by the cutting of turf blocks/sods from the driving range and laying on court three. It cannot be understated of the appreciation extended to the staff of the Howlong Golf Resort and the twenty odd volunteers from Howlong Croquet and the community who were involved in this project. Currently our number three court is being used as a full sized court while our number one court is being utilised as two half courts, while further work on court number two is in progress. We will in the future be able to offer three quality full size courts totally dedicated to croquet.

## **North East District Croquet Association Inc. (NEDCA)**

### **Application for Affiliation**

Following on from a letter from NEDCA dated the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2015 Howlong Croquet was advised that the application was successful. The motion for acceptance was passed unanimously and with applause at the Quarterly Special General Meeting of NEDCA Inc. held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 2015.

### **Official Re-Opening of the Croquet Courts**

The official and initial opening of the courts first took place on Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2016.

With the receipt of a total of \$27,895 which comprised a state government grant along with generous donations as detailed previously the courts underwent a total upgrade.

The Hon Greg Aplin MP inspected our courts on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2017 to understand the necessity for upgrade and had a hit with some of the Howlong Croquet members. Howlong Croquet was notified of the success of the grant application on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2017 with work scheduled for commencement in October 2018. Retiring MP Greg Aplin officially re-opened the courts on Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2019. The re-opening was also attended by Dee Healy – General Manager-Howlong Golf Resort, Sue Van De Ven – Vice-President- Howlong Golf Resort, Kim Gray-Board Member-Howlong Golf Resort, Sarina Cevaal-Hewitt and Jim Clement from the Victorian Croquet Association, Marcia Elliott and Peter

Stokie from the North East District Croquet Association, Sheila Smith from the Howlong Opportunity Shop, Ted McEwen from the Howlong Lions, David Smith (Social Bowls), along with twenty Howlong Croquet members.

## **Storage Shed**

Croquet since its beginning at Howlong has had the need for a storage shed and shade structure. While the storage boxes have been reasonably serviceable to date the need for secure storage of approximately \$10,000 of equipment was realised as a much needed facility along with providing shelter for its members. The shed is 5.96m x 3.74m constructed on a 6.2m x 6.2m concrete slab. The total cost of the shed without a covered veranda equated to \$6300. The total cost has been offset by a Federation Council Grant of \$2630, an anonymous donation of \$1000 and croquet fundraising of \$2670. A second stage of this project will be to construct a covered veranda approximately 2.46m deep by the total width of 5.96m. This second stage project is currently subject to receiving quotations and the submission of a grant application to the Office of Sport NSW. The shed is located at the northern end of the courts with the front of the shed facing in a southerly direction. Once both stages of this project are fully completed all equipment will be securely stored and will also provide an adequate shade area and protection for members and visitors during times of inclement weather. Once this project is completed the remaining two storage boxes will be removed. The culmination of this project realised the construction of the shed adjacent to court No1 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2019. A covered veranda is a stage two project to be constructed across the front of the existing shed – this part of the project is pending advice from a grant submitted to the NSW Government, a response in regard to the grant application is expected in January 2020.

## **Seating Around the Courts**

The provision of seating around the courts was recognised as a need for members and following on from further discussions six bench seats were constructed by the Howlong Men's Shed and were subsequently positioned around the three courts. The total cost of the seats including the concrete pads equated to approximately \$2000 which was paid for by the Howlong Opportunity Shop – again a generous donation. Over the past six months in 2019 all timber was removed, sanded and painted and replaced on the steel frames. The refurbishment of the seats should not need any further maintenance for some years to come.

## **Uniforms**

At the direction of a Board Member at a meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2016 re logos on shirts “the use of the word club is not to be used” The board of the Howlong Golf Resort is currently undertaking a review of shirts/uniforms for all sectors of the resort ie: Golf, Bowls and Croquet. The aim of this review is to standardise uniform design and in particular playing shirts. A preliminary indication that has been given is that new shirts would be required to be worn by all members representing the Howlong Golf Resort in all Pennant matches or other etc either at Howlong or at away venues. This would not affect members who only play in casual social games during the normal times of play during any week. Early indications are

that new shirts would be subsidised by the Howlong Golf Resort. A working party has been established with members from Golf, Bowls and Croquet to discuss uniform design and to provide recommendations to the Board. It is anticipated that this review may take some six months to finalise.

## Office Bearers and Committee

### 2015 – Inaugural Meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Office Bearers	Chairman	Deputy Chair	Secretary	Treasurer
	Graeme Haynes	Fiona Schirmer	Judy Wilkins	Susanne Nielsen
Committee	Jenny Bourne	June Holloway	June Boswell	

### 2016 – First Annual General Meeting 2016 – 13th April 2016

Office Bearers	Chairman	Deputy Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer
	Claire Watson	Graeme Haynes	Judy Wilkins	Michael Gardiner
Committee	Susanne Nielsen	Pauline Styles	Jenny Bourne	Judith Barber
	Janet Boyer			

Note: This meeting was declared null and void by the General Manager – Chris Rebechi due to that the committee as it now stands is not strictly in accordance with By-Law 01-02-16 which limits the number of general committee members to three

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting 2016 – Held 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016 – Inaugural Meeting

Office Bearers	Chairman	Deputy Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer
	Claire Watson	Graeme Haynes	Judy Wilkins	Michael Gardiner
Committee	Susanne Nielsen	Pauline Styles	Jenny Bourne	Judith Barber
	Janet Boyer			
Captain	Graeme Haynes			
Board Rep	Marjorie Nicholas			

### Annual General Meeting 2017 – Held 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Office Bearers	Chairman	Deputy Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer
	Graeme Haynes	Pauline Styles	Marion Billing	Rod Bensley
Committee	Irene Downes	Robin Riches		

### Annual General Meeting 2018 – Held 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Office Bearers	Chairman	Deputy Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer
	Susanne Nielsen	Judy Wilkins	Marion Billing	N/A
Committee	Rod Bensley	Michael Gardiner	Sheila Smith	Robin Riches

## Annual General Meeting 2019 – Held 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Office Bearers	Chairman	Deputy Chair	Secretary	Treasurer
	Susanne Nielsen	Graeme Haynes	Michael Gardiner	N/A
Committee	Rod Bensley	Doug Nielsen	Sheila Smith	Robin Riches

### Howlong Croquet Events and Meetings Summarised by Date

#### 13<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Graeme Gallus and Sarina Cevaal- Hewitt – Nth East District Croquet Association and Victorian Croquet Association – Visit to Howlong to determine siting of croquet courts

#### 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Graeme and Sarina (as above) met with the General Manager – Howlong Golf Resort to discuss level of interest in starting a croquet club and where to set up courts. Decision made to set up two courts on the golf driving range on Thursday afternoons beginning in February

#### 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Graeme and Sarina visited Howlong with equipment for our first come and try day

#### 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Graeme and Sarina visited Howlong

#### 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Graeme Gallus, Sarina, Dee Villarroya, Brenda Bruhn and Val Collins visit to Howlong

#### 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Graeme and Sarina visit to Howlong

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015

Graeme and Sarina visit to Howlong

#### 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Graeme and Sarina visit to Howlong

#### 12<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Inaugural Meeting at Howlong Golf Resort – Graeme Gallus Chaired the meeting and Sarina acted as a minute taker

#### 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Graeme and Sarina visit to Howlong

#### 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Committee Meeting

#### 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015

Graeme and Sarina visit to Howlong

#### 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Graeme and Sarina visit to Howlong

#### 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Graeme and Sarina visit to Howlong

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

Committee Meeting

**14<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

Graeme and Sarina visit to Howlong

**21<sup>st</sup> May 2015**

Graeme and Sarina along with Ruth Duffy for her initial visit

**25<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

General Meeting

**28<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

Graeme and Sarina visit to Howlong

**4<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

Graeme Gallus visit to Howlong

**11<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

Graeme and Sarina visit to Howlong

**18<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

Rained Out

**8<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

Committee Meeting

**6<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

Committee Meeting

**7<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

Committee Meeting

**26<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

Committee Meeting

**4<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

Committee Meeting

**10<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

Christmas Breakup – Chinese Restaurant –Howlong Golf Resort

**13<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

Committee Meeting

**16<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Committee Meeting

**23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016**

Meeting with Chris Rebechi – GM & Paul Irvine – Golf Course Superintendent

**4<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Come and Try Day

**13<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

First Annual General Meeting

**4<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Seniors Week – Come and Try Day – on Golf Practice Fairway

**25<sup>TH</sup> May 2016**

Committee Meeting

**26<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting – Inaugural Meeting

**3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016**

Social Competition – Howlong vs Corowa at Corowa

**10<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

Social Competition – Howlong vs Corowa at Howlong

**4<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

Committee Meeting

**1<sup>st</sup> August 2016**

Committee Meeting

**7<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

Social Day at Howlong

**5<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

Committee Meeting

**2<sup>nd</sup> October 2016**

Social Day at Howlong

**3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016**

Committee Meeting

**2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016**

Committee Meeting

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

Committee Meeting

**9<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Committee Meeting

**29<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Social Day at Howlong

**6<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

Committee Meeting

**20<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

General Meeting

**1<sup>st</sup> May 2017**

Committee Meeting

**25<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

Annual General Meeting

**5<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

Committee Meeting

**3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017**

Committee Meeting

**7<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

Committee Meeting

**21<sup>st</sup> August 2017**

General Meeting-for information of members

**24<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

Greg Aplin visit – State Member for Albury – re courts at Howlong

**4<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Committee Meeting

**2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017**

Committee Meeting

**11<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Social Day – Corowa, Beechworth, Twin City, Albury, Wodonga

**20<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Howlong Public School – School Childrens' Croquet Day

**6<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

Committee Meeting

**29<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

Social Day

**4<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

Committee Meeting

**8<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Committee Meeting

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

Committee Meeting

**5<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

Committee Meeting

**19<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

General Meeting

**22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018**

Social Day

**4<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Committee Meeting

**7<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Committee Meeting

**10<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Social Day

**24<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Annual General Meeting

**4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

Committee Meeting

**11<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

Social Day

**21<sup>st</sup> June 2018**

Greens Committee Meeting

**2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018**

Committee Meeting

**4<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

Committee Meeting

**30<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

Committee Meeting

**26<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

Social Day

**3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018**

Committee Meeting

**3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018**

Committee Meeting

**10<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

General Meeting

**5<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Committee Meeting

**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018**

Committee Meeting

**4<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

Committee Meeting

**18<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

Committee Meeting

**15<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

Committee Meeting

**20<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

Committee Meeting

**30<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

Annual General Meeting

**1<sup>st</sup> June 2019**

Street Stall

**17<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

Committee Meeting

**15<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

Committee Meeting

**19<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

Committee Meeting

**29<sup>TH</sup> August 2019**

Inter club social Day

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

Committee Meeting

**21<sup>st</sup> October 2019**

Committee Meeting

**18<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

Committee Meeting

**8<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Eddie Fleming Perpetual Trophy match followed by lunch at the Howlong Golf Resort

## **Towards the Future – Expectations and Planning**

### **Membership**

The attraction of new members to the club should be viewed as a priority for all current members along with new members into the future. While we have a reasonably healthy membership in terms of numbers as opposed to some other clubs, our membership could be classed as an aging demographic and while I would hope that all continue to play for years to come, croquet at Howlong needs to attract new and younger members to ensure the viability of croquet to expand and continue to prosper for many years to come. The strategy of attracting new and younger members to the club does not of course exclude in any way older or retired members of the community from becoming active in croquet at Howlong. How do we do this?

- Further clinics for the Howlong Public School, not only for the children who may be involved but also as an avenue and introduction to croquet for parents as prospective future members – even on a casual basis
- On-going publicity via the Howlong Golf Resort newsletter, Facebook and web site
- Monthly advertising via the Howlong Grapevine
- Encouragement for all members to act as “recruiting agents” – to spread the word to neighbours, friends and family members in regard to the benefits and the operations of croquet at Howlong
- Production of comprehensive flyers outlining the clubs operations, times of play and all necessary contact details
- Posting of flyers etc at local businesses in Howlong
- Publicity to be extended to other local towns – Brocklesby, Burrumbuttock, Jindera and Walbundrie – other towns may be included

### **Competition and Handicap Matches**

In an ideal world once all three courts are of a suitable standard the croquet committee would offer the courts to NEDCA (North East District Croquet Association) for the conduct of competition and handicap matches. For the purpose of competition and handicap matches three full size courts would be required. As previously advised by the Howlong Golf Resort the use of the bowling greens would be available allowing for an additional two full size courts. The use of the bowling greens would of course be subject to approval in regard to the date or dates of play. If this could be achieved croquet could then offer five full size courts for up to 40 players.

### **Social Days**

With all of our three courts fully operational croquet at Howlong we could accommodate up to a maximum of forty eight players, with all of the three full size courts being laid out as half courts and if necessary the use of the bowling greens which could accommodate an additional thirty two players. If this could be achieved by the use of our courts and the bowling green’s we would be in a position to accommodate eighty players in total.

### **Summary**

While croquet at Howlong is only a fledgling operation the success and achievements that have been realised since 2014 can only be described as outstanding. This success has been realised by the tenacity, vision, hard work and dedication of past and current committee members and all other members in general. Croquet at Howlong would not exist if it was not for the foresight, financial assistance and support of the management and staff of the Howlong Golf Resort – their support to croquet cannot be understated and as such their support is regarded as exemplary. A large part of the on-going operations of croquet at Howlong is reliant upon effective and acknowledged communication being exchanged between the management and staff of the Golf Resort and the Croquet committee. All such communications by the croquet committee must be succinct and clear, while observing established protocols.

I am sure that croquet at Howlong can prosper and further develop long into the future to become a recognized and high quality facility not only for our own members but also for other clubs and organisations.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D Nielsen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Doug Nielsen  
5/01/2020

## Photo Gallery

A short selection of numerous photos from a large compendium



Pre Game Introduction – Practice Fairway – 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015



Practice Fairway Play – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015



**Some of Our Members – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016**



**Play in Progress – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2016**



**Judith Barber, Graeme Haynes, Judy Wilkins and Ken Good – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017**



**Relaying of Court No3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019**



**On Our New Courts – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016**



**Bob Wiersma, Susanne and Doug Nielsen – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
Play off for the Eddie Fleming Perpetual Trophy**



**Robin Riches, Bob Wiersma and Graeme Haynes – 12<sup>th</sup> August 2019**



**Howlong/Twin City Team Members vs Albury – Pennant Match – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019**