McILWRAITH CROQUET CLUB

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

1923-2023

CONTENTS

1 Acknowledgement of Country
Centenary Celebrations Program

2 From our President and Supporters

3 A Croquet Club is Born

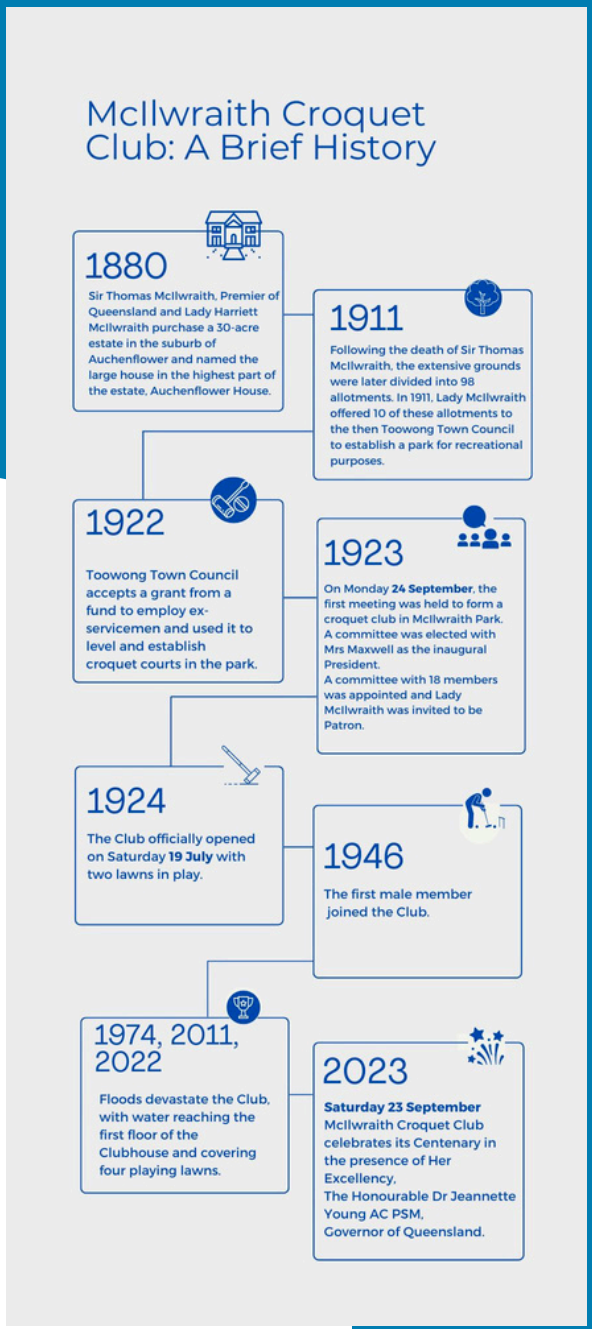
4 Our People: Then and Now

5 Our Club: Then and Now
Our Love of the Game

6 Member Memories

7 Our Future

8 Come and Try
Join Us



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Club and our members acknowledge and pay our respects to the Turrbal people, traditional owners of the land on which the Club is situated, and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS PROGRAM

August 26
Unveil Centenary plaque in Clubhouse
Unveil plaque on original lawn roller

September 12
Unveil Centenary plaque at
Auchenflower Railway station

September 15-20
Round robin Centenary Cup matches

September 23
Morning: Final of Centenary Cup
Afternoon: Centenary Cocktail Celebration

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Turning 100 is a remarkable milestone by any measure and it's indeed a privilege to be President of McIlwraith Croquet Club as the Club celebrates its Centenary.

When prospective members attended the first meeting to form the Club on Monday 24 September 1923, little could they have known that a century later we'd still be going strong; our membership would sit just under 100; mallets would be made not only from wood but also modern carbon fibre; we'd be playing not just one but four different types of croquet; player cards would be replaced by online booking sheets; attire would go from formal whites to comfortable, colourful and casual; players would go from well-to-do women to all community members being welcome. And now, like then, McIlwraith would hold its own among the best players in the State and the country.

I continue to be amazed at the foresight and generosity of Lady Harriett McIlwraith in offering this land to Toowong Town Council to establish a park for recreational purposes. As you walk around the lawns, there are shelters recognising some of the Club's past leaders and passionate croquet players who took her vision forward. Their guiding hands, along with support from countless members, have ensured these beautiful lawns and facilities continue to be enjoyed not only by players but by the community at large.

Never has this depth of support and commitment been better demonstrated than in the flood recovery efforts of 2022 – the sixth event in the Club's 100-year history. Water rose almost three metres, reaching the first floor of our Clubhouse and covering four playing lawns which had just been newly refurbished over the Christmas holidays.

Yet, this did nothing to dampen our Club's fighting spirit. With help from dozens of neighbours, willing volunteers including students from nearby Raymont Residential College and local elected representatives, the cleaning effort saw balls and hoops cleaned, gateball tapes wiped, tables and chairs scoured, new appliances secured, toilets disinfected, mud cleared, the Clubhouse electricals rewired and rubbish removed. Play resumed within two weeks of the waters subsiding – testament to the determination of members to get back swinging their mallets.

On this celebration of McIlwraith's Centenary and on behalf of the 20 Presidents who have gone before me, it's this dedication and commitment that we entrust to future leaders and members of our Club. Our ambitions remain bold and include an extension to the Clubhouse that will offer a larger, more accessible and more comfortable space for our 99 members. We go forward with pride in what has been achieved and the possibilities the future affords our Club.

We thank all of our supporters, then and now, and especially Brisbane City Council who has been steadfast – come rain, hail or shine – in ensuring this little part of Brisbane history has remained true to its purpose for 100 years and now beyond.

Ruth Matchett
President

FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

The Lord Mayor of Brisbane Councillor Adrian Schrinner

I am delighted to congratulate the McIlwraith Croquet Club on 100 years of service and sporting opportunity to the people of Brisbane. This truly is a major achievement and all members can be very proud of this significant milestone.
The Club has played an integral role in local history since being established on land gifted by Lady Harriett McIlwraith for recreational uses. As one of the earliest croquet clubs in Brisbane, McIlwraith Croquet Club was at the forefront of introducing the game to the general public and has continued to welcome generations of new players.
Council supports community clubs that bring people together for social engagement and help deliver our vision for an active and healthy city. While much has changed over the past century, McIlwraith Croquet Club remains a much-loved feature of the local community.
Please accept my best wishes for your Centenary celebrations and continued success over the next 100 years.

Peter Matic
Former Councillor for Toowong and Patron, McIlwraith Croquet Club

I have been associated with McIlwraith Croquet Club for many years as a Club Patron and it is a pleasure to be celebrating 100 years of the McIlwraith Croquet Club with you.
A Centenary is a milestone in any endeavour but in a volunteer organisation such as yours that seeks to provide both service and enjoyment to the people of Auchenflower and beyond is remarkable and inspiring. It speaks much to the efforts of those who are currently members and those who have preceded you. Thank you all for your invaluable contribution.
I wish you all the very best and long may you thrive and enjoy your presence in our Auchenflower community.

Member for Ryan Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP

What an incredible milestone to mark. A century of croquet and community! My sincere congratulations to McIlwraith Croquet Club on this grand achievement.
The effort and commitment required of members and volunteers to keep an organisation going for 10 decades is absolutely extraordinary. I wonder if Lady Harriett McIlwraith could have imagined that women and men would be playing croquet on this very same land one hundred years after the inception of the McIlwraith Croquet Club! She almost certainly couldn't have imagined that to survive this long the club would have to contend with three major floods!
These grounds and lawns have witnessed many spirited sporting battles over the decades, they've seen friendships form and endure, sometimes down through generations. Clubs like this offer so many benefits in addition to physical fitness. Certainly the social connections, mental health benefits and community spirit have value beyond measure.
I wish McIlwraith Croquet Club all the best for this special anniversary. Thank you for your invaluable contribution to our community, and I sincerely hope you continue for another 100 years!

FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

Member for Maiwar
Michael Berkman MP

Congratulations McIlwraith Croquet Club on celebrating your Centenary. The Club is a unique, historic westside landmark that is valued by so many on the westside.
The longevity of the Club is a credit to the countless folks who have given their time to this much loved community facility over the years. I offer a special thanks to all those who have worked and raised funds to rebuild the Club following several major flood events that have impacted the area.
One of my favourite things about McIlwraith Croquet Club is that it brings together folks from so many different walks of life. Few places on the westside are frequented by students, seniors, and families alike.
McIlwraith Croquet Club is an important part of the westside community that I hope will continue operating for years to come.

President of Croquet Association of Qld
Pat Habner

McIlwraith Croquet Club, throughout its history, has continued to set a shining example of dedication and determination – on and off the lawns. It has promoted mallet sports across the years and MCC members represent the very best that croquet has to offer as a game for people of all ages and abilities.
Not only has the Club produced many players who have risen through the ranks to play at the national level, it has promoted friendship and collegiality in all that it does.
Of particular note, members have shown true grit and stepped up every time the Club has been challenged by nature and been totally inundated by flooding events. Their resilience is truly remarkable – including the way in which you bounced back so quickly after the floods of 2022. You are all true champions.
Happy 100th Birthday.

RIGHT: Lyndon James (Queensland Rail) congratulates Bob Elliott (Chair, MCC Centenary Committee) on the Club's 100th anniversary. The memorial plaque was installed by QR in the recently upgraded Auchenflower Station

A CROQUET CLUB IS BORN

The Club is established on the low lying flood plain of a now-hidden small creek – Langsville (or Saltwater) Creek. It is surrounded by higher hilly land and is located about 500 metres from the Brisbane River. In 1875, the floodplain was divided by the establishment of the Brisbane to Ipswich Railway with Auchenflower Station built in 1879.
As a result of its location, the Club is affected by the run-off of water from local hills and by major flooding of the Brisbane River and flow-on inundation. Since 1923, the Club's lawns have been affected by three minor events (1931, 1954 and 2017) and three major events (1974, 2011 and 2022). The 1974 and 2022 floods covered the lawns to a depth of 6 metres and 4 metres respectively.

Auchenflower House

After the settlement of Brisbane, the area covered by the current suburb of Auchenflower was divided into a series of estates. One of these estates was the 30 acre area bounded by Milton Rd, Ridley St, the railway line and Dixon St.
In 1878, a large house was established on the highest part of the estate. This house was bought in 1880 by Sir Thomas McIlwraith, then Premier of Queensland.
He and Lady McIlwraith renamed it “Auchenflower House”. They extended the house and built extensive gardens leading from the house down to the railway station. As part of this work, they created an artificial pond and island.
In 1895, Sir Thomas left Auchenflower House and moved to London with Lady Harriett. He died in 1900. After his death, the extensive grounds were neglected. In 1905, the land was divided into 98 allotments. All but the low-lying allotments were sold between 1908 and 1913. In 1911, Lady McIlwraith offered 10 of these allotments to the then Toowong Town Council to establish a park for recreational purposes. In June 1911, the Council accepted this offer to establish McIlwraith Park.

McIlwraith Park

The establishment of the park took 10 years, reflecting the challenging nature of the site.
In late 1911, the Health Department wrote to Toowong City Council asking that "the swamp" be drained and filled. Council agreed that the site should be filled with "clean" fill such as ashes. It was, however, used as a general rubbish dump and was subject to numerous complaints about the smell.
By 1922, it had been filled and resembled a park. There was debate about what recreational facilities should be located in the park. One proposal was for tennis courts. In late 1922, the debate was resolved. The Australian government established a fund to employ ex-servicemen. The Queensland Chairman of the fund was John Maxwell, Member for Toowong in the Queensland Parliament. Toowong Town Council accepted a grant from the fund and used it to level and establish croquet courts in the park.

Pond and Fern Island in the 1880s.
The Club is located on the land between the island and the railway line – not on the site of the pond.

Job Title

Job Title

Job Title

Job Title

First meeting

On Saturday 22 September 1923, an invitation was published in The Brisbane Courier newspaper for “ladies of Toowong” to meet to discuss the formation of a croquet club as part of the bequest from Lady McIlwraith. At a subsequent meeting, the Club was formed with a committee of 18 members and Mrs Alice Maxwell (wife of John Maxwell) appointed as President. Lady McIlwraith was invited to be Patron.

Club opens

The granting of a formal 21-year lease of the land by the Toowong Council to the Lady McIlwraith Croquet Club on 2 April 1924 provided security of location for the Club.

The Club officially opened on Saturday 19 July 1924 with two lawns in play. Toowong Town Council was absorbed into Brisbane City Council on 1 January 1925 and a commitment to fill the remaining land to make further lawns was not fulfilled so the Club funded the lawn development work.

By 1929, the Club had four lawns. That same year, Brisbane City Council confirmed the lease and reduced the lease payments to reflect the costs met by the Club.

The Club currently has a 10-year lease with a nominal expiry date of September 2025.

Original lease

We, the council of the town of Toowong, being registered as proprietor of an estate in fee simple interest, subject, however, to such encumbrances, liens, and interests as are notified by Memorandum endorsed hereon, in that piece of land situated in the County of Stanley Parish of Enoggera containing 3 roods 30 perches be the same a little more or less; being the land in the South Eastern corner of McIlwraith Park, sufficient in size to accommodate for croquet courts, each court being the size of 35 yards by 28 yards which said piece of land is part of the land described in the Certificate of Title No. 199319 Volume 1185 Folio 59, do hereby lease to the Lady McIlwraith croquet club of TOOWONG all the said lands to be held by them the said Lady McIlwraith Croquet Club as tenant for the space of twenty-one years commencing from the first day of January, 1924, at the yearly rental of (£5) Five pounds per year for the first ten years payable and ten pounds per year for the balance of the term, payable half yearly, on the first days of July and January in every year, subject to the following covenants, conditions, and restrictions:-

That the said lessee shall deliver up to the said Council at the end of this lease, all buildings and improvements erected by these said Club, in good condition, fair wear and tear excepted.

That the said lessee shall pay all water roads due during the currency of this lease.

I, Alice Maxwell, for and on behalf of the Lady McIlwraith Croquet Club, of Riverview Terrace, Auchenflower, do hereby accept this lease of the above described lands to be held by me as tenant, and subject to the conditions, restrictions and covenants above set forth.

Dated this second day of April, 1924.

Signed by Lessor
Charles Patterson, Mayor
Alexander T. Fraser, Town Clerk

Signed by Lessee
Alice Maxwell, President
For and on behalf of the Lady McIlwraith Croquet Club

Signed by the above named Charles Patterson and Alexander T. Fraser for the Council of the Town of Toowong as Lessor, and by the above-named Alice Maxwell as Lessee, this second day of April, 1924, in my presence – Ernest Bowden.

OUR PEOPLE: THEN AND NOW

FOUNDERS

Sir Thomas McIlwraith KCMG

Lady Harriett McIlwraith

ACHIEVERS

Peter Nicholson: Coach, competitor State, National and World Championships (New Zealand 2015, Melbourne 2017)

Penny Jackson
Coach, referee, competitor State and National Championships

McIlwraith's Nuran Melksham at the Women's Golf Croquet World Championship (New Zealand 2019)

Club Presidents

1924-25	J F Maxwell
1926-27	S H Hansford
1928	S Johnnson
1929	J F Maxwell
1930-32	T Biggs
1933-35	T B Smith
1936-38	A K Lawson
1939-46	A W Williamson
1947-48	J F Lefeuvre
1949-50	A W Williamson
1951-54	G Fraser
1955-56	D Burnie
1957-69	A W Williamson
1970-74	A W Williamson
1975-78	D Burnie
1979-83	Mrs N Kruger
1984-86	Mrs D Hill
1986-89	Mrs N Kruger
1989-92	Mrs I Porter
1992-93	Mrs J Harper
1993-96	Mrs L Davies
1996-99	Dr O McCarthy
1999-02	Maj Jill Whitehouse
2000-04	Mrs June Tait
2004-07	Sandy Ridgway
2007-10	Penny Jackson
2010-13	Sandy Ridgway
2013-16	Penny Jackson
2016-19	Sandy Ridgway
2019-21	Penny Jackson
2021-23	Ruth Matchett

Life Members

Mrs June Tait
Mrs I Porter
Mrs G Allen
Ms B Wilson
Mr J Morris
Mrs N Kruger
Mrs A Williamson
Mrs D Burnie
Mr John Angus
Maj Jill Whitehouse
Dr R Brown
Mrs P Jackson
Mrs S Ridgway

Lawns

The Dulcie Hill Lawn
The Doreen Irwin Lawn
The Tait Lawn
The Ann Williamson Lawn

Our Longest Serving Member

Beryl Holmes joined McIlwraith in 1995. Shown here with the roller she used to hand roll the lawns.

MEMBERS 2023

Members gather on the lawns for the 2023 Annual General Meeting on 26 August.
(Those unable to attend are shown at centre.)

OUR CLUB: THEN AND NOW

Little could the decorous ladies of Auchenflower gathering in 1923 for the inaugural meeting to establish the McIlwraith Croquet Club have imagined the tradition they started that evening would live on for 100 years, or that those 100 years would witness major changes and challenges to many aspects of the Club, its members and its elegant setting that would steer philanthropist, Lady Harriett McIlwraith's vision for a place for people in the area to gather and enjoy recreation. Not the least of these challenges has been flood events in recent years which destroyed most of the Club's long-term records and memorabilia. So our history has been lovingly reconstructed from newspaper references, family histories and personal recollections. It can be divided into three periods – the first 15 years, the middle 60 years and the last 25 years. Of the middle years, little is known reliably except for the names of the Presidents. It is worth noting that Mrs Frank (Ann) Williamson was President on and off for 35 of those years. Mrs Williamson was also President of the Queensland Croquet Association from 1950 to 1955.

Leadership

The Founding Committee comprised up to 19 members. Four founding members were married to men who served as aldermen in the Toowong City Council – Councillors Biggs, Maskey, Patterson and Watts.
The first president, Mrs Alice Maxwell, was the wife of the Member for Toowong. Many were wives of businessmen. A number of women were prominent in charities and in local church groups. Six were from the Toowong Presbyterian Church. Their husbands were committee members in local bowls clubs and the Toowong Rowing Club.

The current committee has a much more manageable 10 members drawn from across the membership each year and who meet monthly.
A number of sub-committees and working groups oversee important Club activities including playing and development, repairs and maintenance, fundraising, grounds and administration.

Membership

In the early years, all members were women, aged on average in their mid-40s. They lived in the nearby area surrounded by Swann Road, Taringa and Baroona Road, Milton, the Brisbane River to the south and Rosalie to the north. Membership numbers fluctuated between 40 to 60.

Now, almost one-third (31%) of members are men with the first male member joining in 1946. Membership currently stands at 99 with the youngest member aged 53 and our most mature member aged 93. The majority of members live in suburbs adjacent to the Club with about one-tenth living more than 10 km away. Five members have been with the Club for more than 20 years.

OUR CLUB: THEN AND NOW

The Clubhouse

To say the Clubhouse has had an uplift and a few facelifts since its humble beginnings in 1929 is an understatement. The original Clubhouse – a small dark-coloured pavilion – was initially a one-room building with lattice windows and set low to the ground.
During the 1930s, it was extended three times; by building additional rooms, by raising about two metres, establishing a lower pavilion and adding an extension at the back with toilets under the Clubhouse.
Apart from being painted white, it remained virtually unchanged for the next 50 years.
In 2007-2008, Brisbane City Council undertook a major renovation which involved removing asbestos, shifting the Clubhouse back towards the existing fence line, raising it one metre and installing modern toilets underneath.

The Clubhouse was renovated to its current state after the 2011 floods. and repaired again after the 2022 floods. The upstairs level provides respite from the summer sun and brisk winter winds. It comprises one large open room with seating, a neat kitchen and a small room for members to store their mallets. The area downstairs is home to balls and hoops, and the variety of measuring tools for the exacting task of setting the lawns. The field machinery and the gardening tools are also housed in the downstairs area, along with the toilets. A small kitchenette ensures that a quick cup of tea is on hand after a game.

What we play

Members started by playing Association croquet, the traditional form of the game, which is best described as a "race" in which the players attempt to be the first to complete the course of hoops and the peg with both balls of their side.

As well as Association croquet, over the years Club members have enjoyed playing Golf, Ricochet and Gateball croquet. At one time, McIlwraith was the only club in Brisbane playing all four codes of croquet on the same day.

Club Captain (and master tactician) for more than a decade, Roger Brown (left)

When we play

In the early days, members played mainly one day a week during the croquet season which was from mid-March to mid-November. There was very little weekend play and, apart from play day, the Club was used only a few times a year for fundraisers, engagements, and farewells for overseas trips and resigning members.

Members today enjoy scheduled play on four days each week and can book an available lawn any day of the week. Play is all year-round except for an end of year break when the lawns are top-dressed and members escape the hottest part of the year .

OUR CLUB: THEN AND NOW

Competing

McIlwraith members have always played with a competitive spirit. The Brisbane Courier on Saturday 24 September 1927 profiled Lady Goodwin (wife of Queensland's 14th Governor, Lieutenant General the Honourable Sir Thomas Herbert John Chapman Goodwin) congratulating Miss A Paterson, winner of the McIlwraith Croquet Club A Grade championship.
(See photo right)

Today, we use our refurbished Clubhouse to host intra-club and inter-club competitions where the rivalry is fierce! Over the years, we have hosted tournaments ranging from friendly gala days to State and National championships.

Social gatherings

From its inception, the Club has been a hub of social activities. The official opening ceremony for the lawns by the Mayor of Toowong, Alderman A Watson, on Saturday 19 July 1924 drew a large crowd. "Afternoon tea was served at tables decked with bowls of poinsettia, gerberas, arum lilies and coleus leaves. During the afternoon, croquet competitions were arranged."
The following year, the Club received a mention in the social column of The Brisbane Courier (28 March 1924). "The McIlwraith Croquet Club will hold a farewell tomorrow afternoon on the club's courts in honour of the Mayoress of Toowong, (Mrs Patterson) and Mesdames Gillingwater and Teys, members of the club, who will leave shortly for a trip to Europe. Competitive games will be held."

The social aspect for members is also welcome with a variety of functions held throughout the year including monthly member barbecues, teams days and information exchanges. Today, the social importance of the Club has grown. Each year, we host around 40 events and more than 2000 guests. An active member of the local community, we host social gatherings from a wide variety of community groups celebrating birthdays, reunions, pre-wedding get togethers, baby showers, team building events and more. These functions raise much-needed funds for the Club's repairs and maintenance program.

OUR LOVE OF THE GAME

"Croq-ay", "croq-ee", "cro-qay" whichever way you say it, croquet means fun!
For some, it's the toughest game on grass; for others it's a nostalgic reminder of Alice playing with her flamingos in Wonderland.
Just ask some of our members...

"From the time I started, I've loved it and I can't stop playing!
I especially like the social side of it but I also like the competition too."
Kerrie Hodgson, member 2021

"When I retired from the bush, my lovely young son decided that mum needed something interesting to do so he rang McIlwraith Croquet Club and got me a membership for Christmas. It took me awhile to start playing but I love it! It's a great feeling when you get a hoop. I love the friendship and the drinks after we all stop playing.
My advice to anyone who starts playing is to keep your eye on the ball. I'm convinced it's the hardest thing in the world to do!"
Penny Button, member 2019

"I live locally and I've been driving past the lawns for years and thinking to myself I'm going to do that someday even though I'm terrible at sport.
Croquet is the perfect game for an ageing person. It's a centred game. Your body weight is distributed evenly. The swing is very even. It's very gentle. The lawns are small so for an ageing person, it's the perfect game ... and I'm getting very old!
Robbie Clark, member 2020

MEMBER MEMORIES

"I'd read about McIlwraith in the Westside News; I also had a flyer in my letterbox looking for members. When I turned up, there were only 17 financial members and the Club was experiencing financial difficulties. I'd only been a member for a few months when I was asked by the then Committee if I would like to be President! I wasn't really given much of a choice in the matter. I was invited to their next Committee meeting followed by lunch. I took along a bottle of wine to share but there were no wine glasses – just a few champagne saucers. Wine glasses were my first purchase for the Club!
This was followed by many years of fundraising in very simple ways. We had garage sales and then we got a bit more adventurous and held gala days which would attract up to 70 people coming along in 1930s costume. We'd show them how to play croquet and award prizes for the best dressed hat or costume. We provided afternoon tea and would made all the food ourselves; bring along our silver tea sets from home and use the many cups and sauces at the Club. The days were very fancy and very successful."

Sandy Ridgway, member 2003, President 2004-07, 2010-13, 2016-19

"We had a backyard croquet set as a kid so I was familiar with the game. When I retired, my friend Margot Youngson and I joined McIlwraith in September 2005. In May 2007, I went to Oxford with friends for a house swap for three months and before I went, Sandy and June Tait were encouraging me to be president, and I just smiled and shrugged. Then while I was away, I received a letter saying 'You are now President of McIlwraith'. I couldn't have been further away and I still became President! Over 17 years, it's been my pleasure to share the presidency with Sandy – three years on and three years off. My personal goal was to improve the overall playing standard and that's probably what I'm most proud of.
The question I get asked often is about how to do jump shots. My advice is to not think about it too much...just treat it like any ordinary shot."

Penny Jackson, member 2005, President 2007-10, 2013-16, 2019-21 *(and Jump Shot Queen)*

"One day, 15 years ago, driving past the club, I saw players on the lawns and on pure impulse, drove in. The first three members I spoke with were Sandy Ridgway, Penny Jackson and Roger Brown. Within weeks I had joined. Now MCC is an integral part of my social life. Yes, I enjoy the game and associated competition, but even more pleasure comes from the company and friendship of fellow members. Happy 100th birthday McIlwraith."

John Silkstone, member 2008

"When I had to give up playing tennis over 20 years ago because of knee problems, I decided I would give croquet a go. Am I glad I did! As well as enjoying the game, the social side has been so rewarding with club barbecues, parties and get togethers.
I've witnessed romance blossom for a couple in their 70s. She arrived one club day flashing a gorgeous diamond ring and announcing the wedding day. She had been on her own for over 20 years. He had also lost his wife a few years earlier. We were all so happy for them.
Croquet also helped me get through a very traumatic time in my life. Instead of sitting at home moping, going to croquet and hitting the ball with the mallet helps get rid of frustrations – especially when you have a good day!
I am 87 now and still look forward to playing the game, although at times the mallet is also used as a walking stick to get around the lawns!"

Denise Robertson, member 2004

"I learned to play at Coolangatta Croquet Club and then joined McIlwraith in August 2004.
I loved visiting other clubs for competitions from Rockhampton in the north to Ballina in the south, Toowoomba in the west and most clubs in between!
I'm an early riser so my favourite activity has been the Sunrise Competition...thank you Roger!
My top tip for new players to improve your game is to play as much competition as you can."

Helen Donaldson, member 2004

"I joined McIlwraith when I retired, but I have loved croquet all my life. As a child, I played in the backyard with my mother and aunts. I don't play now because my vision is impaired.
One of the greatest highlights for me at McIlwraith has been the camaraderie. In the early days, after we finished our games at 11am, we'd sit in one of the sheds and have nibbles and drinks... and I mean, "drinky drinks!!"

Beth Thiesfield, member 2003

OUR FUTURE

One of the constants over the past 100 years has been the support the Club receives from government along with the goodwill extended to us by our local community. Brisbane City Council has been part of the Club's history since its first day.

This support has been reinforced in recent times when the Club has had to recover from the sixth flood event in the Club's 99-year history. On 28 February 2022, water rose almost three metres, reaching the first floor of the elegant clubhouse to a depth of 24 cm and covering four playing lawns which had been newly refurbished over the Christmas holidays.

With help from dozens of willing volunteers including students from nearby Raymont Residential College and local elected representatives, the cleaning effort has seen dozens of balls and hoops cleaned, gateball tapes wiped, tables and chairs scoured, toilets disinfected, mud cleared, the electricals rewired and rubbish removed.

With help from grants from the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments, and Brisbane City Council, we recovered from the 2022 floods to stand as a Club which plays regular social and competition games each week.

Hiring out the club to social groups for parties has the added benefit of raising much-needed funds to maintain and improve our facilities and retain membership numbers by offering relatively low fees. Each year, these events raise on average of $30,000 which is used to maintain the lawns and offset operational running costs.

October at McIlwraith.
Painting by Helen Cumming, member 2012

COME AND TRY

People of all ages and levels of ability are welcome to try a game at McIlwraith Croquet Club. Croquet is a very reasonably priced sport to play. At McIlwraith, membership fees range from $470 (pensioners) to $550 (full members) per year (as at 2023). Members don't pay green fees. The Club has mallets available on loan and can help players buy their own. The only other things you need to play are flat-soled shoes and a sun hat.

Visiting croquet players are welcome at McIlwraith either from other local clubs or those visiting Brisbane. Please feel free to join us on any member playing day and meet the friendly locals.

JOIN US

Why not have a ball and book a function?
Playing a game or two of croquet is a great way to bring people together or to celebrate life and work events of all kinds. Croquet play is available at all functions with members on hand to get play started and to share their tips.

To book, simply email **functions@mcilwraithcroquetclub.com**

Playing days

7 days per week, subject to availability

Golf croquet

Wednesday & Saturday 8.00am–12 noon
Thursday 3.00pm–6.00 pm

Ricochet croquet

Wednesday & Saturday 10.30am

Email

secretary@mcilwraithcroquetclub.com

Web

www.mcilwraithcroquetclub.com

Address

Cnr. Auchenflower Tce & Dixon St
Auchenflower Qld 4066

McIlwraith Croquet Club acknowledges the generous assistance from Brisbane City Council to print this publication.

Web edition