

Papers Past

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## WARKWORTH CROQUET CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Warkworth Croquet Club was held in the bowling green pavilion on a recent date. The election of officers and committee resulted as follows:—President, Mrs A. Warin; vice-presidents, Mrs W. Hamilton and Mrs H. Moore; secretary and treasurer, Mrs A. Hope-well; committee, Mesdames B. M. Green, J. G. Mulholland and Miss Miller.

Reports on prospects of the coming season's play were very encouraging. It was decided to purchase some more playing material so that with the new greens some 12 players will be able to play at one time. A considerable amount of work is being done at present around the green which will make it much more comfortable and convenient for members.

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## WARKWORTH CROQUET CLUB.

RODNEY AND OTAMATEA TIMES, WAITEMATA AND KAIPA

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Due to the accretion of many new members during the past season a much improved financial position was reported at the annual meeting of the Warkworth Croquet Club held at the home of the club-president, Mrs A. M. MacDiarmid, last Monday afternoon. Mrs MacDiarmid presided over a good attendance of members. The president and secretary in their reports referred to the great assistance the club had received from members of the Warkworth Bowling Club, especially Mr T. H. M. Stewart, in connection with improvements to the lawns. Mention was also made and much appreciation expressed regarding the action of the Bowling Club in making provision for the serving of afternoon tea to both the Croquet and Bowling Clubs during the season. This gesture it is understood was in recognition of a similar service provided for the bowlers by the ladies during the past years. The Bowling Club was accorded a hearty vote of thanks. It was also reported that during the year under review, one of the lawn shelters had been boarded up and painted, the work being made possible by donations of material and free labour by enthusiastic supporters of the Club. The secretary reported that during the year she had acknowledged donations from Miss E. Miller, a life-member of the club, and Mrs H. B. Moore, and added that the membership of the club for the past season was 28 full members, 2 half-year members, 3 honorary members and 3 life-members.



**The Warkworth & Districts Croquet Club** was formally constituted in 1984 and a letter was sent to Mr Peter Bilton of the Warkworth Town Board asking for land to establish four croquet lawns. As the development of Goodall Reserve was unlikely to happen in the near future, Riding member Mrs Anne Katavich suggested an approach to the Point Wells Recreation Reserve Trust and a lease was signed to provide two lawns only and with no further right of renewal beyond 1996. *commenced 1986?*

Correspondence from 1996 onwards shows the Rodney District Council indicated that it would consider the provision of a four-lawn complex at (1) Shoesmith Domain, (2) Warkworth Showgrounds, (3) Goodall Reserve. Planners included four croquet lawns in the Showgrounds development in 2003 but changed the space to hockey turfs in 2004. A proposal submitted to the Goodall Reserve Management Plan in 2005 was rejected. An expression of interest in the Women's Bowling Club lease on Shoesmith Reserve was initially accepted as the most appropriate use of the land and building but rejected following the formal submissions hearing in February 2009, despite 343 out of 406 submissions supporting the proposed location of the croquet club.

Some of your planners contend that croquet is a restricted use but so is netball, so is squash, so is tennis, so is badminton so are hockey turfs. I could go on...

Although the land required for four croquet lawns is approximately 5,000sqm, this does not require to be square or rectangular or even on the same level. Many clubs have lawns on at least two different levels. There's probably space for four croquet lawns on four different levels at the Atlas site! And there's certainly space (p2) for four croquet lawns irregularly set out behind the Rugby No 1 field at the Showgrounds.

### **Why do we particularly want to be in Warkworth?**

- It is important to provide for the social, sporting and recreational needs of all the community, including senior citizens. The Orewa Croquet Club was established about ten years before the Warkworth club and a number of our members left to join Orewa because their croquet lawns are close to the town amenities, unlike Point Wells. Close to shops, medical and dental facilities – those are things that matter to the elderly. And Warkworth's retired population is steadily increasing. They need the opportunity to keep their minds and bodies active; otherwise you have to provide extra aged and dementia care facilities.

Croquet is a sport for all ages – From 9 to 90. It's a sport that provides non-contact exercise and develops strategic thinking. It is a sport that is once more growing in popularity, especially with younger people. Under 30-year-olds are increasingly taking over the top rankings in both New Zealand and world croquet. There's Kiwi Croquet for younger primary school children and golf croquet is an exciting introduction to the longer game of association croquet.

You have told us that you know what we want and you don't want to hear from us again. Well, we may sound like a stuck record and the best way to fix that is to grant us a lease of appropriate land in Warkworth and let us get on with the work of developing our lawns before our lease at Point Wells expires. We have had seemingly endless assurances that we will get lawns in Warkworth but we limped along with an expired lease between 1996 and 2010 and our 5x5-year-lease negotiated with Rodney District Council late last year will expire in nine years' time. It will take at least two years to develop new lawns. That leaves the next seven years to get drainage reports/plans/consents as well as to organise fundraising. We really want a commitment from you that will allow us to get on with planning, fundraising and constructing these four lawns.

**With commitment and imagination together we can make a great addition to the sport and recreation facilities in Warkworth.**



Club  
Shed →

Hall



# **WARKWORTH AND DISTRICTS CROQUET CLUB**

1999

In 1984 the club was formed at Snells Beach with a membership of about 5 players. Due to flooding the club was soon moved to the present site in Pt Wells, as part of the Pt Wells Community Association property. A swampy area has been transformed into two full sized lawns, surrounded by trees and gardens. The local Community Hall serves as a clubhouse, but there are shelters and seats for the players.

Membership is limited to about 35 active players because more cannot be accommodated on two lawns. The majority of members are in the 60 to 80 year age group and all enjoy the mental as well as the physical aspects of the game. There are 3 clubs day per week, with opportunity to play on any other day of the week.

Warkworth became a NZCC Representative Club in 1993 and joined the Auckland Croquet Association in 1998.







## WARKWORTH CLUB

During the winter months considerable work has been done on the club's property. A separate green has been laid down for the use of the croquet club, which, up till now, had been using portion of the same green as the bowlers. The bowlers will now have the full use of the nine rinks on their green. These have been top-dressed and are now in a

