
Lorriane Bray

On Monday 3rd December 2007, Point Lookout Croquet Club, Maryborough, lost a dedicated member, friend and mentor, Queensland Croquet lost one of their champions, and Australian Croquet lost an elite player with the passing of Lorraine Bray.

Lorriane was born in Toowoomba, and her early life was a mobile one, the result of having a father who was a police officer. In 1939 Lorraine's father was transferred to Tiaro and until Lorraine's family moved to Maryborough Lorraine travelled on the rail motor from Tiaro to Maryborough to attend school.

Lorraine enlisted in the Australian Women's Army Corps and served her country until discharged at the end of the war. She then commenced employment as secretary to Mel Horsburgh in the firm of G.H Horsburgh & Co., and remained there until she married. For many years Lorraine was Secretary of Maryborough Show Society, retiring from the position in 1997. She was awarded Life Membership of the Show Society for her years of dedicated work.

Lorraine played many sports including basketball, tennis and hockey. It was through hockey that Lorraine met her husband Ron. Ron and Lorraine married in 1952 and had two children Paul and Lynn. Sadly Ron passed away in 1973. As a result of injuring herself at tennis Lorraine decided to take up croquet as her mother had played the game for many years. Lorraine quickly showed her natural talent for the sport and was soon looking for challenges in a wider arena.

Lorraine always committed herself to the croquet club and held the position of treasurer continuously for many years. She was also a Greens Director and held the position of President, Club Captain and was Tournament Manager for the Biennial and Masters Tournaments for many years. Lorraine always considered it to be her duty to pass on her knowledge of the game to new members and those wishing to improve their game. Her commitment to the club was recognised in Life Membership.

Lorraine achieved at local, state and national level. In 1963 she won her first state championship in 2nd Division Singles and from there her career escalated. Up until her retirement from competition in 1996, Lorraine has been Queensland Doubles Champion on seven occasions, Queensland Singles Champion on nine occasions and she represented Queensland 20 times – 6 of these being Queensland Captain, She also won the prestigious Gibson Medal on 10 occasions. Lorraine won the Australian Ladies Singles Championship on two occasions and was runner up on two occasions. She also won the Australian Doubles Championship twice. Lorraine

represented Australia in the MacRobertson Shield played in New Zealand in 1979. She again represented Australia in 1988 and 1990, winning the coveted Tasman Shield on both occasions.

The highlight of Lorraine's career was her win in her first Australian Singles Championship, coming from an unwinnable position at 0-24 to win the game 26-24. She also has the distinction of being the first lady in Australia to complete a triple peel in a competition game.

In 2000 Lorraine was awarded the Australian Sports Medal for her achievements and serviced to the sport of croquet, the medal was cast to commemorate the staging of the Olympic Games in Australia and was awarded to an elite few in a number of sports. On 25th November 2007 Lorraine was honoured for a long and illustrious career in the sport of croquet by being accepted with pride into Maryborough's Walk of Achievers with a plaque inserted in the Achiever's Walk on the corner of Wharf and Richmond Streets, Maryborough.

Farwell to a Great Lady.
Point Lookout Croquet, Maryborough