



~ **Laurel Bank Croquet Club Inc.** ~  
**Cnr Herries and West Streets,  
Toowoomba.**



The Laurel Bank Club was formed in 1934, the third club in the Toowoomba area, following on from Toowoomba and West Toowoomba. The President of West Toowoomba Progress Association, James Hoare, helped 15 ladies interested in croquet to form the club.

The first committee – Patron, Mr S.G. Stephens; Patroness: Lady Moyoress, Mrs J.D. Annands; President Mrs Malcolm Sinclair; Vice Presidents Mrs Dent, Mrs Hopkins

and Mrs Platz; Honorary Secretary, Miss G. Goldsworthy, Honorary Treasurer, Mrs H. Schmidt; and Captain, Mrs C.G. Blair. Meetings were to be upstairs in the Town Hall, and at the first AGM a credit balance of £22/11/8 was announced and a Building Fund started.

The first fundraiser was a garden party in Laurel Bank Park, entrance cost was one shilling (1/-), a profit was made of £8.0.0, and a Commonwealth Bank account was opened.

Twenty-six (26) members paid an enrolment fee of one shilling (1/-) each. Badges were available at a cost of two shillings and six pence (2/6), and blazers were also available. The first uniform was a cream fuji dress and a brown flannel blazer.

The official opening of the club and gate was set for June 30<sup>th</sup> 1934. In the meantime, play was either at Toowoomba Croquet Club or at Mrs Marshall's private lawn (by invitation).

**Laurel Bank Croquet Club:** A brief history of the Laurel Bank Croquet Club has been forwarded by their Secretary. It makes interesting reading if only to compare the cost of equipment with present day prices. A meeting was held on March 15, 1934, when it was decided to form another croquet club in Toowoomba. The club was named the Laurel Bank Croquet Club with their headquarters at the Laurel Bank Park, Toowoomba. The first President was Mrs. Malcolm Sinclair. Functions held to obtain funds included Garden Parties and Picture Show benefits. A profit of £8.0.0 was made at the first party and a Picture benefit netted £3.11.0. In May 1934 a meeting was held at which 41 members were enrolled. 50 club badges were purchased at a cost of 3/- each. One set of balls was purchased at a cost of £4.2.6; clips, 5/6; hose fittings, £1.7.1. The lawns were opened on March 16, 1935. A box to keep the equipment in was made and presented by Mr. Dunsdon. This was kept in the open in the Park. (How long would it last these days). The Club House was opened on May 7, 1938, by the then Mayor of Toowoomba, Mr. Annand. Exhibition games were played by members of the Toowoomba and West Toowoomba clubs. Like most clubs over the years, it has had its ups and downs. They now have two lawns and a membership of 17.

*Clipping from the Australian Croquet Gazette, year and date not known*



Gates were erected at the west end of Laurel Bank Park to honour Mr Stephens and a plaque was placed at the entrance.

Fetes, stalls and Bridge parties were held to raise funds for the croquet equipment, and donations mostly covered costs. The Bridge parties continued regularly, with members donating expenses.

By November 1934 grass seed was planted and lawns were weeded, and the club purchased top soil to prepare for the opening on 16 March 1935. Mr Fett was paid one pound a week to maintain the lawns, and a mower was purchased for three £3/10/- and a roller for £3/0/0. Balls were purchased for approximately three shillings each. Play days were to be Wednesday and Saturday, and green fees were set at six pence (6d)..

In 1936 Laurel Bank Croquet Club became a member of the Queensland Croquet Association (QCA).

Mr Stephens made a donation to open an account to raise money for a building. In the meantime, a box was placed in the park near the lawn in which to keep Club property, and the Council was asked to put lattice around the end of the lawn to provide shade.

The Clubhouse was completed and the opening was set for 7<sup>th</sup> May 1938. Alderman Platz donated two pounds towards the fences and Mrs Platz donated a gallon of paint; assistance was also received from the Council.

In 1939 Mrs Malcolm Sinclair, first president of the Club, became the first honorary Life Member.

In 1945 the Club applied to have the sewerage connected. A wooden building was erected near the shed to be used as a toilet until the sewerage was approved. The next year, 1946, the Club asked the Council for a quotation on what the sewerage would cost to have it connected, even if the Council was not going to pay for it – however, it was not until 1947 that a tender of £145/- was accepted. It was also in this year that the Council advised it would no longer spray the clover on the lawns, as this was now the Club's responsibility, the strainer on the tank was repaired and the Club was advised it could not be let for outside meetings. A further ten-year lease was granted.

At the Annual General Meeting in 1946, the President reported that Pennants would be held in April, and the Downs Tournament (to which the Club gave a donation towards the prizes) would be held later in Allora. Bridge parties continued throughout the 1940's as the main source of income, as most expenses were donated. In 1948 the Club donated to the "Food for Britain" campaign.

The beginning of the 1950's saw mem-

LAUREL BANK PARK

Toowoomba 'Chronicle' 7-09-1932 p.7. c.7-8.

Laurel Bank Park.

Ten Acre Park for City of Toowoomba. Generous Gift by Mr. S.G. Stephens.

Mr. S.G. Stephens of whose public spirit to public of Toowoomba has several admirable examples, has notified the City Council of his intention to present to Toowoomba a valuable park on the western side of the City. The area of ten acres, the unimproved value of which is assessed at £4054, has frontages to Hill, West and Herries streets. In making known the offer yesterday the Mayor (Ald. P.J. Peterson) said that when the meeting of the Council is held on Monday night he would make a statement. The letter from Mr. Stephens, which is addressed to the Mayor states -

I have always considered a public park on the western side of Toowoomba to be not only desirable, but essential. With the object in view I acquired ten acres of land at the intersection of Herries, West and Hill streets, Toowoomba and have had it planted with shrubs and trees.

I desire formally to present, through you, to the City of Toowoomba this property, and to ask the Toowoomba City Council to kindly act as custodians of the gift. I need only point out that I do not wish my name to be in any way attached to the gift, but desire the designation of the property in perpetuity to be "Laurel Bank".

Regarding the allotments across the lane, these may be considered suitable for such games as croquet, tennis and basket ball. If such is used I specially request that no games be played on Sundays, Good Friday or Anzac Day. I wish October 31st to be the date on which the property is formally handed over. Meanwhile I propose to complete further improvements.

If my offer is accepted I hope the Mayoress will kindly consent to perform the opening ceremony, also that the Council will continue the practice of supplying flowers from time to time to the Toowoomba General Hospital.

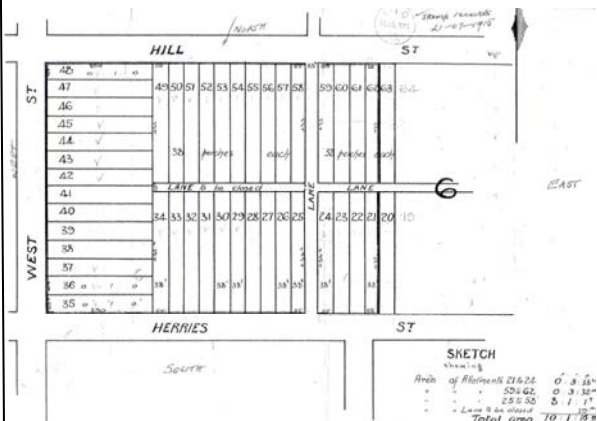
"Copy of article written in Toowoomba Chronicle

*Laurel Bank Croquet Club.*  
*216 Herries St.,*  
*Toowoomba.*  
*26<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1935.*

*To*  
*M<sup>r</sup>: S. G. Stephens,*  
*Feil Street.*

*Dear M<sup>r</sup>: Stephens,*  
*The members of*  
*the Laurel Bank Croquet Club*  
*extend a cordial invitation to*  
*you and your sisters to attend*  
*the official opening of the new*  
*lawns in Laurel Bank Park on*  
*Saturday afternoon, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 2.30 pm*  
*Yours faithfully,*  
*M. F. Goldworthy*  
*Hon. Sec.*

Letter of invitation to Mr Stephens to attend the opening of the croquet lawns, 1935



Sketch of Laurel Park

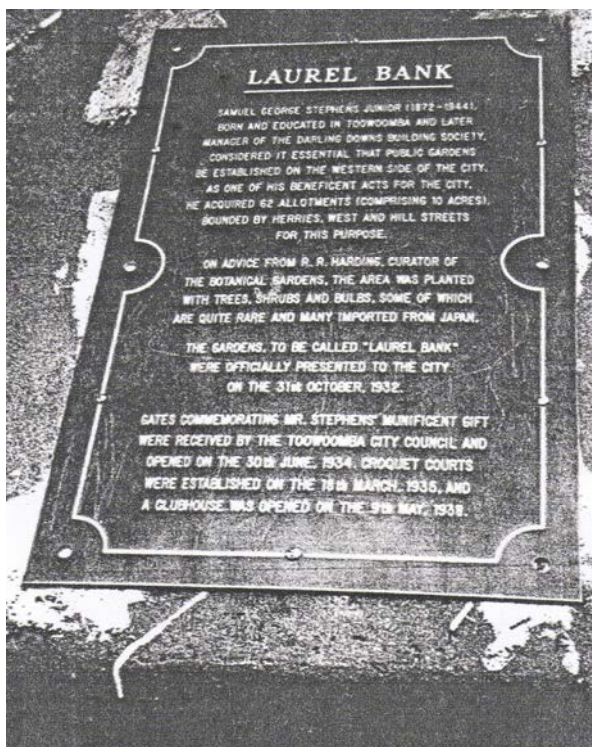
bership limited to 25, as it was thought this was the maximum number the Club could handle. Annual fees were set at three guineas (£3/3/-), and in 1953 green fees were increased from 1/6



to two shillings. In 1954 there was a motion that the two shillings lawn fees should be paid whether the member played or not, but this was defeated at a later meeting. In 1957 it was decided that on Wednesdays "A" grade players would lay on the top lawn with lower grades on the bottom lawn. In 1959 the first male member of the Club was advised his subscription fee would not be accepted due to his "disturbing the harmony of the Club."

It was in 1954 that it was decided that members would wear uniforms while playing; a club cardigan was added in 1961. As a means of fund raising, a social day was organised with the Toowoomba Club, followed later in the year with the West Toowoomba Club. Christmas parties were a highlight – in 1954 caterers were employed at a cost of four shillings a head, while in 1974 members exchanged 60c grocery parcels. In 1975 Christmas Hamper tickets were sold for 10c each on behalf of the QCA.

Just to prove that there were droughts in 'them' days too, in 1968 all lawn cutting was stopped – and a padlock was fitted to the door of the tool shed! However, the weather must have improved as an electric mower was bought in



Plaque erected in Laurel Bank Park



Open Day at Laurel Bank: Photograph: Front row from left: Oriel Hope, Wink Baker, Rhona Stroud, unknown, Clive Berghoffer, Joan Geisel, Gleam Handley, Eileen Lucas – Open Day (circa 1950-60s)

1970. Club amenities were not forgotten as the Club bought a refrigerator in 1971 and an electric kettle in 1974. In 1973 Club equipment received a boost when two sets of second coloured balls were purchased and a member donated a set of balls, two mallets and eight hoops.

It's nice to see that service clubs were active in the 60's – in 1967 the Lions Club members painted the fences, though the Club supplied the paint. It's also sad to note that vandals were a part of Toowoomba life, as in 1971 they destroyed six panels of fence, a gate and damaged a tap, the clubhouse was broken into twice in one week, and in 1973 they broke a seat and dug holes in the lawn. Again the fences and seats were painted, this time by Club members in 1971 and the verandah was repaired in 1973 – it needed to be repaired again in 1974, so it was arranged for the Blue Army to do this – it didn't happen, so Mr Gabbet paid \$70 to do the job. When the Council approached to assist with the painting of the Clubhouse in 1975, the Club was advised it was unable to assist.

In 1970, no visitors attended the Open Day, so it was suggested the format be changed, with all grades to play on the same day, instead of each grade on their own day.

*(Compiled from documents with the Toowoomba Historical Society, from club documents and honour boards by H. Drew and N.M. Malpress, and from the booklet History of Croquet Clubs in Queensland 1997, with thanks)*

## THE COUNTRYWOMAN

### THEY SAY—

THAT—That good citizen, "S.G.," as he is familiarly known, has given ten guineas to the newly-formed Laurel Bank Croquet Club. The list of the benefactors of "S.G." would be a long one. There is one man, at any rate, who knows how to use money. Leisure—well, he - never seems to have any!

*'The Countrywoman'*  
21st March, 1935.

### Laurel Bank Croquet Club

#### New Club House Opened

The Laurel Bank Croquet Club house, a compact, cream-painted building, finished with touches of brown, was opened on Saturday afternoon by the Mayor, Alderman J. D. Annand. It stands in a picturesque setting on green lawns, shade trees and flowering shrubs and comprises a tastefully furnished lounge, a well-equipped kitchen and a dressing-room. The official party gathered on the entrance porch for the opening ceremony. The president of the Club (Mrs. Malcolm Sinclair), before introducing the Mayor, gave a brief outline of the history of the club. She said the Park had been donated to the city by Mr. S. G. Stephens, who expressed a desire that sport of some kind would be played there. The members of the West Toowoomba Progress Association conceived the idea of forming a croquet club, and in 1924 this club was formed. A debt of gratitude was owed the Toowoomba Council for expert advice and the use of its workmen. Though it was four years since the club's inception the members had not played all the time, as it took 12 months before the lawns were in playing condition. During this time Mrs. D. F. Marshall allowed members to play on her lawn in Campbell-street. The club house represented an objective for which the members had been working very hard. It was not opened free of debt, but half the necessary amount had been raised which was a good beginning. Mrs. Sinclair welcomed the visitors and expressed gratitude on behalf of the members for the help they had received in connection with the building up of their club.

Alderman Annand said he was glad to have the opportunity of expressing the deep feeling the City Council had for the charming grounds, which had been given by Mr. S. G. Stephens, with only one condition—that they be made available to the people for the enjoyment of the people. The croquet club gave the opportunity to further beautify the Park. He was pleased to be present to represent the citizens and to thank Mrs. Sinclair and the members of the Laurel Bank Croquet Club for their untiring work since the club's formation. The British Empire had a Lord Nuffield, and Toowoomba had a Mr. Stephens, whose gifts brought pleasure to thousands. He offered his

congratulations to the club on the completion of the club house and wished the members success and happiness.

The Mayor was supported by Mr. S. G. Stephens, who said he was delighted to be associated with the club and hoped it would prosper. He was pleased the Mayor took such an interest in the Park. He wished to thank him and his fellow aldermen, and Mr. Leadbetter for the work which had been carried out so well.

Mr. J. E. Duggan, M.L.A., wished the club every success and hoped the members would enjoy many pleasant times in the beautiful park.

Mr. Herbert Yeates, M.L.A., expressed thanks for the invitation to be present at the opening of the club house and congratulated the club members on their work which showed perseverance and loyalty. They had achieved their objective in building the club house, which was a fine building. He wished them success.

Other speakers were Alderman E. Turnbull and Mr. C. Williamson.

Mrs. J. Schmidt moved a vote of thanks to the speakers. This was supported by Mr. J. Hoare, the president of the West Toowoomba Progress Association, and carried.

The Mayor turned the key of the front door and the party passed into the lounge for tea, which was served at long tables centred with bowls of autumn-tinted flowers and leaves.

Mrs. Sinclair was hostess. The invited guests included the Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Yeates, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Merritt, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Duggan, Mr. and Mrs. L. McIntyre, Mr. S. G. Stephens and Miss D. R. Stephens, Mr. and Mrs. C. Williamson, Mr. and Mrs. F. Barlow, Mr. and Mrs. D. Rees, Dr. Sinclair and Miss Sinclair, Messrs J. Krimmer, Gerard Boyce, Scott (Pittsworth), White (Dally), Lickins (Alton), Jack (Dally) and the president of the Warwick Croquet Club.

Stalls were arranged under the trees and competitions were played on the lawns. Mrs. J. Platz convoked the jumble stall. She was assisted by Messrs W. Childs and S. Dennis. Mrs. W. Flood was in charge of the sweets stall. She was assisted by Mrs. J. W. Scanlan. The treasurer of the club (Miss M. Rowe) supervised the cake stall, assisted by Mrs. S. M. Hopkins. The competitions were under the direction of the secretary (Mrs. P. E. Priest), assisted by Mrs. J. Voght, Misses Mulhearn, L. Orchard, J. Dennis and E. Bridgman. Afternoon tea was served under the supervision of Messrs L. Dunsdon, Pett, Copas and R. Lyon.

*Toowoomba Chronicle*  
9th Nov. 1938.

**Newspaper articles  
1935 and 1938**



### Club Presidents

1934-1939	Mrs E. Sinclair
1940-1941	Mrs M. Dunsdon
1942	Mrs M. Priest
1943	Mrs M. Flood
1944-1957	Mrs M. Priest
1958	Mrs W. Watts
1959	Mrs M. Priest
1960-1964	Mrs W. Watts
1965-1966	Mrs C. Curry
1967-1968	Mrs A. Fraser
1969-1978	Mrs W. Watts
1979-1981	Mrs C. Kimmins
1982-1983	Mrs G. Handley
1984-1987	Mrs E. Bogg
1988-1992	Mrs R. Stroud
1993	Mrs B. Gilbert
1993-1994	Mrs R. Stroud
1995	Mrs. H. Drew
1996	Mr J. Thornley
1997-2005	Mrs H. Drew
2006-2008	Mr D. Woodruff

### Life Members

Mrs M. Sinclair  
Mr J. Thornley  
Mrs R. Stroud

### State Team Players

Mrs E. Bogg  
Mr J. Hardy  
Miss J. Suttom  
Mrs. D. Hardy

### Club Champions

1936-1938	Mrs E. Stone
1939-1940	Mrs L. Dunsdon
1941-1947	Mrs P.S. Priest
1948-1949	Mrs S. Dennis
1950	Mrs E. Stone
1951-1952	Mrs P.S. Priest
1953-1954	Mrs E. Stone
1955-1956	Mrs P.S. Priest
1957	Mrs E. Stone
1958-1959	Mrs S. Dennis
1960	Mrs F. Dongers
1961-1964	Mrs W. Watts
1965-1973	Mrs A. Fraser
1974	Mrs C. Kimmins
1975	Mrs E. Bogg
1976	Mrs A. Fraser
1977	Mrs C. Kimmins
1978	Mrs C. Kimmins
1978	Mrs A. Fraser
1979	Mrs C. Kimmins
1980	Mrs E. Bogg
1981	Mrs C. Kimmins
1983-1990	Mrs E. Bogg
1991-2001	Nil
2002-2008	Mr J. Hardy



Mrs Oriole Hope assisted by Mr Thornby and Mr Mathie plant a Liquidambar commemorating fifty years of the Laurel Bank Croquet Club. Members and visitors from Toowoomba watch with interest. Photograph courtesy The Toowoomba Chronicle

### 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAUREL BANK CROQUET CLUB, TOOWOOMBA

The Laurel Bank Club, the third club in Toowoomba, was inaugurated in 1934 to cater for the people living in the central part of the city. There was already a club in Toowoomba North and Toowoomba West.

A group of ladies approached the Toowoomba City Council for a grant of a portion of land in Laurel Bank Park. After careful consideration, council approved of the site and two courts were developed. However, it wasn't until 1938 that a clubhouse was built. Until this time equipment was kept in a locked box on the courts.

A loan of £100 from QCA, £100 from the Commonwealth Bank and a lot of hard work by the members manning stalls, conducting garden parties and fetes, together with donations from members, and the £800 necessary to build a clubhouse, was procured. Membership in 1938 was forty financial members. Fees were set at one shilling per year.

On 23 April 1988 we celebrated fifty years of the opening of the clubhouse. The opening fifty years ago was performed by the mayor of the day, Alderman Annand.

### Club Tournaments

#### Mrs C. Kimmins Cup

1991	Mrs H. Drew
1992	Mrs D. Hope
1993-1994	Mr T. Thornely
1995	Mrs J. Gesell
1996	Mrs H. Drew
1997	Mrs N. Mal-
press	
1998	Mrs H. Drew
1999	Mrs N. Mal-
press	
2000-2001	Mr K. Ruhle
2002	Mr J. Thorley
2003-2004	Mrs G. Field
2005	Mr D. Woodruff
2006-2007	Mrs H. Drew
2008	Mrs M. Fowler

In Australia's bicentenary year of 1988 the members held a tree-planting ceremony to commemorate the occasion. The tree, a Liquidambar donated by one of our members, Mrs Oriole Hope, was planted in the Laurel Bank Park adjacent to the clubhouse.

E. C. Bogg  
Publicity Officer

### Croquet Australia 1988, Septem-

### Burstows Shield

(played for by all 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade players in Darling Downs Region)

1998	H. Drew (Laurel Bank)
1999	W. Gosling (Laurel Bank)
2000	J. Hardy (West Toowoomba)
2001	B. Travers (Laurel Bank)
2002	R. Mann (Toowoomba)
2003	G. Field (Laurel Bank)
2004	B. Brady (Toowoomba)
2005-2006	G. McKay (Dalby)
2007	M. Daley (West Toowoomba)





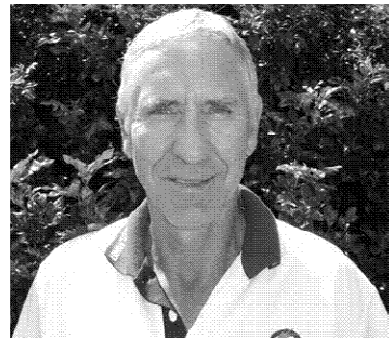
*Rona Stroud, President CQA, with Jim Thornley*



*Mrs E. Sinclair ( life member and President 1934-39)*



*State Tea, Representative Mrs E. Bogg (standing) cutting anniversary cake*



*Queensland Representative Players from Laurel Bank Croquet Club:  
Top right: Jocelyn Sutton  
Middle: John Hardy  
Bottom: Deidre Hardy*



4

**CROQUET CLUB FORMED.**

The ladies in the area, continued his Worship, were desirous of forming a croquet club. An energetic committee of ladies was formed and they approached the Council and asked if they would be allowed to form the croquet lawns in Laurel Bank. The Council approached Mr. Stephens and asked his permission, which was granted.

These lawns were now being built and would be under the control of the City Council. The work had been performed by intermittent relief labour, and he felt that it was a very good thing to use this labour for the beautification of the city. The grounds would be full size competition lawns, and when completed would be as good as any croquet lawns to be found in Queensland.

**CIVIC JEWELS.**

Toowoomba, he believed, had another civic jewel in these grounds, and it was through the generosity of Mr. S. G. Stephens that they were acquired. He thanked him on behalf of the citizens for his civic pride.

They had another beautiful park in Horn Park, which was the gift of Dr. Alex Horn, proving that they had people with vision who felt it was better to make their gifts while they were still living and so see the people enjoy them than wait until they passed away when the doors were soon forgotten.

Laurel Bank cost many thousands of pounds to acquire and build up to what it was to-day. Mr. Stephens spent thousands of pounds in searching the world for the best of trees and flowers. Any money spent by the city in keeping these grounds in order and in further improving them would, in his opinion, be spent for the benefit of Toowoomba.

It was with distinct pleasure he attended at the public ceremony of opening these new gates, and he hoped that many generations would enjoy and remember the gift of a man whose magnanimity made it possible for Toowoomba to acquire such a beautiful place.

**THE GATES OPENED.**

The Mayoress then cut the ribbon and Mr. Stephens then opened the gates. Mr. Stephens said he sincerely thanked the people for the presentation of the handsome gates, which he considered to be a great compliment to himself and his family. He and his family were very pleased at the manner in which the Council was looking after the grounds, and he would like to refer to the work of Mr. Lesdbetter, Mr. Dow, and staff. He was pleased that the croquet people were opening grounds in the park, and he hoped that the ladies would enjoy many games. In opening the gates, he would remind them that they were opened to the public of Toowoomba for ever.

Three cheers were then given for Mr. S. G. Stephens and family, and this was followed by three cheers for the Mayor and Mayoress.

The TC 2-11-1932  
RAKES - LAUREL BANK  
CROQUET Club.



Sweet stall at the fete held on Saturday in aid of funds for the Laurel Bank Croquet Club. The helpers are Mesdames A. G. Lyons, P. Priest, and J. Mathews.

—Crook-King Photo.



Produce stall and stallholders at the fete in aid of Laurel Bank Croquet Club.

—Crook-King Photo.



Mr. S. G. Stephens replying to the Mayor's address, prior to opening the Commemoration Gates at Laurel Bank on Saturday.

—Crook-King Photo.

Excerpt from Mayor's Address (Old TDANNAND) on Sat. 31 October 1932

Ref: NEWSPAPER CUTTING BOOK 'Laurel Bank' 1920-50 - Over

Newspaper article, 1932



## NEW CROQUET LAWNS.

At Laurel Bank Park.

OPENED BY MR. S. G. STEPHENS.

Laurel Bank Park made a charming setting on Saturday afternoon for the opening of the croquet club's courts which, there is not a doubt, will be a great asset to that particular part of the town.

The park, as is well known, was a gift to the city from Mr. S. G. Stephens. It is a very delightful spot. On Saturday afternoon the weather was delightfully cool and bracing. The grounds, with their green grass and beautiful shade trees, made a delightful setting for the croquet lawns and the bright little nets which were held in connection with the opening. The tea table also made a gay spot of colour. It was arranged with bowls of beautiful pink and mauve asters and gladioli. There was quite a fair gathering at the function.

Mr. S. G. Stephens was introduced by the President (Mrs. Malcolm Sinclair), who gave a delightful little address. She apologized for the absence of the Mayor. She thought that the new lawns would undoubtedly be among the best in Queensland. The members owed a great debt of gratitude to Mr. Stephens who, beside donating the courts, had also that afternoon given a gift of ten guineas to the club. Mrs. Sinclair also expressed thanks to Mr. Hoare and Mr. Leadbetter, who had given great help in the formation of the lawns.

In a short speech, Mr. Stephens said he had great pleasure in opening the courts. He paid a great tribute to Mr. Hoare, who had given so much assistance. He hoped that the members of the club would have much happiness and pleasure in using them.

Mr. K. J. Llewellyn congratulated the club. Mr. Hoare proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Stephens.

Mr. Stephens christened the courts by hitting the first ball. The committee of the club was responsible for the arrangements for the afternoon. Messrs. P. B. Priest, Neil Orr, J. Platz, W. Childs and W. Bushamster had charge of a sports stall, an outstanding feature of which was some beautiful flowers.

Competitions were supervised by Messrs. Ken Macfarlane and L. Hopkins. Messrs. P. B. Priest, W. P. Dun-

don, E. G. Lyon and R. Stone directed the refreshment stall.

During the afternoon exhibition games were played by Messdames F. Hodgson and H. Goodrich (Toowoomba Club) and Mrs. B. Gibson and Miss Rene Fryar (West Toowoomba).

Members of the Laurel Bank Club have chosen an attractive uniform in autumn tones of red and brown, with smart hip-length coats over white frocks. Their enamel badges are in the same colours.

Mrs. Goodrich and Miss F. Hodgson won the exhibition match (28 points) from Mrs. Gibson and Miss Rene Fryar (18).

Toowoomba Chronicle  
15<sup>th</sup> March 1935

## CROQUET.

Laurel Bank Club.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The first annual meeting of the Laurel Bank Croquet Club was held in the Town Hall yesterday afternoon. Mr. J. Hoare, who presided, welcomed the members and hoped that they would have a happy and successful year. The secretary, Miss Goldsworthy, read the minutes of the first meeting, held in connection with the forming of the croquet lawns at Laurel Bank. Mrs. Schmidt moved that the minutes be confirmed, and this was seconded by Mrs. Lyon. The secretary's report was read by Miss Goldsworthy and the balance sheet, which was read by Mrs. Schmidt, showed a credit balance of £22/11/8. Mr. Hoare moved the adoption of the report and balance sheet, which was seconded by Mrs. M. McStay.

The president's report was read by Mrs. Sinclair. The adoption was moved by Mr. Hoare, seconded by Mrs. Schmidt.

The election of office-bearers was as follows: Patroness, Mrs. J. D. Anand; president, Mrs. Malcolm Sinclair; vice-presidents, Messdames J. Robinson, L. Dunston, S. Hopkins; secretary, Mrs. Lyon; treasurer, Miss Rowe; committee, Messdames J. Platz, M. Priest, A. Childs, and E. Stone. Mrs. Schmidt and Mr. Hoare were appointed in charge of the courts. Apologies were received from the Mayor and Mayor-elect, Alderman and Mrs. Anand, Sir Littleton and Lady Groom, and the patron of the club, Mr. S. G. Stephens.

Those present were Messdames Malcolm Sinclair, E. Stone, M. Priest, A. Childs, J. W. Scanzlan, C. M. Lyon, H. Schmidt, J. Platz, J. Robinson, M. Prood, M. J. Mathews, N. Turnbull, K. Macfarlane, M. McStay, W. Bushamster, A. W. Butlers, F. Hopkins, Brodie, L. Dunston, A. E. Orr, W. Boyd, Misses Goldsworthy and Rowe and Mr. Hoare.

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The following address was read by the president, Mrs. Malcolm Sinclair:—  
I wish to thank you one and all for

your very loyal support and help during the past year. The first year of development is always a difficult one, as there is so much to do, but since the formation of the club in March, 1934, we have made wonderful headway. Our very sincere thanks is due to the Toowoomba City Council for granting permission for the club to be formed in Laurel Bank Park, and for the extremely generous way we have been treated in the building of the courts. We could not have acquired such a delightful setting or such picturesque surroundings anywhere else in Toowoomba, and we have reason to be grateful, and I think we do fully appreciate all that has been done for us. To Aldermen Platz and Webb, members of the Parks and Baths Committee, we tender sincere thanks for supervising our interests during the formation of the courts. To Mr. Leadbetter and Mr. Dow, who supervised the actual work done, we are extremely grateful. I feel I cannot adequately express to Mr. and Mrs. Marshall the appreciation of the club for their extreme kindness in placing their lawns at the disposal of the club, for lending

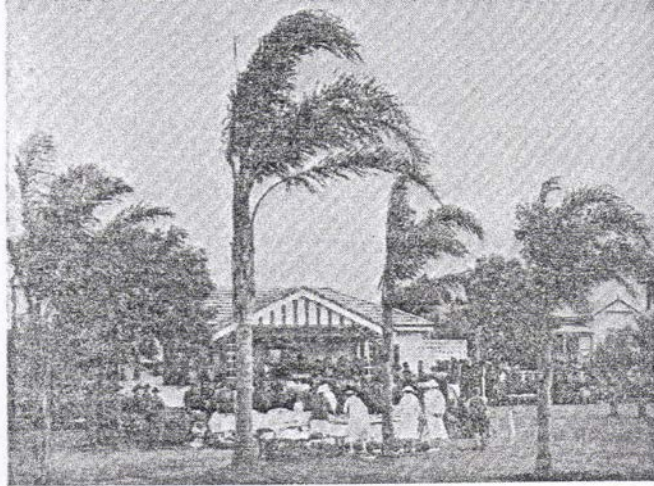


MRS. MALCOLM SINCLAIR.

their house for parties and for generous coaching of players by Mrs. Marshall. We regret exceedingly the loss of Mrs. Blair, whose kindly acts will long be remembered by many privileged to know her. We convey to Mr. Hoare and the members of the West Toowoomba Progress Association our gratitude for their splendid achievement and success. A small enrolment fee of 1/ per member was made by the club to pay incidental expenses, and members paying such fee are entitled to become foundation members and do not have to pay an entrance fee. The courts were officially opened on Saturday last by Mr. S. G. Stephens, whose magnanimity and generous public spirit made it possible for us to enjoy the croquet courts in Laurel Bank Park. Too much cannot be said of this wonderful gift to the city and we, as a very small portion of the community, intend to enjoy our opportunities to the full. The courts are now open for play, and to the donors of equipment we offer our special thanks. It is the ambition of the club to build a club house of the beautiful blue stone from the Toowoomba quarry, to harmonise with the memorial gates erected by the City Council to commemorate Mr. Stephens's gift. When this became known Mr. Stephens, with his usual generosity, donated £10/10/ to open the fund. We ask you all to give us your support in the coming year, and we trust that many happy and harmonious days will be spent in the companionship of each other and in the enjoyment of a game of croquet in Laurel Bank Park.

"Toowoomba Chronicle"  
22nd March, 1935.





Set in beautiful Laurel Bank Park, the new club house of the Laurel Bank Croquet Club was opened officially on Saturday afternoon. —Crosby-King photo.

"Toowoomba Chronicle"

9<sup>th</sup> May, 1938.



At the official opening of the new club house of the Laurel Bank Croquet Club on Saturday afternoon: Mr. S. G. Stephens, Mrs. Malcolm Stockair (President of the Club), and the Mayor (Ald. J. D. Asmund). The Mayor performed the opening ceremony. —Crosby-King photo.

"Toowoomba Chronicle"

9<sup>th</sup> May, 1938.