

# HISTORY OF BOWLS CLUBS

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**1864**

## **Melbourne Bowls Club - Vic (oldest existing bowling club in Australia)**

- Foundation Date: 11<sup>th</sup> March 1864
- Affiliation Date: 23 July 1880 (**Founding Member of the Victorian Bowling Association**)
- First President: Honourable Matthew Hervey M.L.C.
- First Secretary: John Campbell

The Melbourne Bowling Club is situated on a large corner block behind Chapel Street, Windsor; dwellings and commercial properties surround the whole. The Clubhouse includes the original double storey brick building in Georgian style with a long single storey building added to the side in the 1923. The whole building is painted deep gold. The original building had upper and lower verandas with ornate iron-lace work, which were later removed during renovations.

A neighbouring house was incorporated into the extension to provide a gaming room which was entered directly from Union Street. The original building house offices and the billiard tables while the extension contains all the honour boards and a trophy cabinet. This cabinet contains the minute books dating from the formation of the club and other trophies and gifts from visiting clubs. The extension, is a long room with the bar on one side and large windows on the other side which look onto the two greens, has a typical 1970s decor.

The two paintings by T.S. Gill of the club in 1867 hang in this room above the trophy cabinet. The Club is conscious of its standing as the oldest in Australia and work continues to be done to restore and renovate the Honour Boards and various pieces of furniture. The 2 main greens comprise 7 rinks each and are separated by a concrete walkway with covered seating at each end of the rinks. There are two smaller greens to the side. The grounds include an attractive garden.

**1864**

**11 March:** This day the Melbourne Bowling Club was founded by John Campbell, obtaining a lease of land at "Chapel Street (sic) from Mr Sayce, for a period of ten years of the annual rental of Twenty Pounds, payable half yearly on 11 September and 11 March each year. (First entry in the records in the handwriting of John Campbell). Thus making Melbourne the oldest bowling club in Australia

**27 October:** Greens opened. A bar was established occupied by John Campbell. Quoits were available for those not playing bowls, whilst one portion of the green was occupied by lady visitors pursuing the game of croquet.

**1865**

182 gentlemen enrolled. With a projected deficit for season 1865-66 of three hundred pounds the entrance fee was increased to two guineas and the annual subscription also to two guineas. Because of this increase a breakaway group formed the Prahran Bowling Club.

**16th September 1865:** The green was opened. The entrance fee being 10/6d and the annual subscription 10/6d. It became known as the Tradesmen's Club but closed in 1871.

**1866**

A shelter to house the bar was built by John Campbell, this shelter was known later as the 'Veranda'

**1867**

The painter S. T. Gill visited the Melbourne Bowling Club and painted two water-colours of a bowls match in progress, one of the summer green and one of the winter green. (These paintings are on display at the Club)

**1868**

**21 August:** The Club became the possessor in fee simple of their Green. Plans were mooted to build a pavilion. In the interim Mrs West was granted the lease of the bar at 2 pounds, 18 shillings and 4 pence per month this sum was later reduced to one pound per month.

**1870**

**8 November:** The keys to the new pavilion were handed over by the contractor.

### **1873**

The first Grand Bowling Tournament was played between six Melbourne Clubs. This tournament became an annual event and after the formation of the Victorian Bowling Association became the V.B.A. President's Trophy.

### **1874**

The Skittle Alley completed on August 8th. The alley was found under the billiard room floor during recent renovations – has now been concreted over.

### **1875**

Gas light installed in the pavilion.

### **1880**

**14th April:** First inter-colonial match played between a team chosen from members of the various Melbourne clubs to be played in Sydney. The formation of the NSW Bowling Association resulted from this match.

**23rd July:** The Victorian Bowling Association was formed.

### **1887**

**28th December:** The new club pavilion was officially opened.

### **1899**

Melbourne Bowling Club player, Major B.J. Wardill, in England to watch the Australian Cricket team under the captaincy of Joe Darling, met with him and English bowler Mr S.E. Yelland. As a result of the meeting, Major Wardill arranged for the Victorian and NSW Association Presidents, also travelling to England, to meet with Mr Yelland, resulting in the formation of the Imperial Bowling Association, becoming the International Bowling Board, now **World Bowls Ltd**, the governing body for bowls world-wide.

### **1923**

**15 September:** The foundation stone is laid for the new extensions to the Clubrooms

### **1950s**

A successful period for Melbourne Bowling club when it won many championships. Acquired surrounding properties with the view to future extensions.

### **1964**

Extension to the bar area Melbourne Bowling club was a Men's club until 1998. Current membership stands at 170 with fees of \$200 (GST Incl) per year. Fifty percent of the membership lives within 2 kms of the club.

**1886**

## **Richmond Union Bowling Club - Vic**

- Foundation Date: November 11th, 1868
- Affiliation Date: 23 July 1880 (Founding Member of the Victorian Bowling Association)
- First President: George S. Coppin
- First Secretary: Arthur Oxley

The Club was formed when Richmond Councillors played bowls against Brighton Councillors on the Court House Hotel green in Brighton. When Richmond Town Hall was being built a bowling green was constructed, opening on November 2, 1869. The club was party to the formation of the V.B.A.

in 1880, and produced many famous bowlers, J.H. Sheedy, singles champion of Australia 1900, 1904, 1907 and of Victoria 1904, and Victorian singles champion A. E. Butler, R. Mitchell, B. Hansen, R.T. Kelly, W. Bleach, each twice: W. Nation, W. J. Cuddon, R. S. Inglis, and F. Jamieson each once,

Champion of Champions Winners were A. Callet, B. Hansen, F. Dobbie, C. E. Jones, E.C. Wood and A. Eames, M.J. Collins and F. Dobbie won Victorian Pairs in 1920 and J. Robin won Veteran singles in that year.

The club won A pennant in 1910. For many years, the Richmond Union Masters Singles attracted

Bowlers from all States, Dick Kelly was V.B.A. president from 1918 to 1920 and Wally Thomson from 1976 to 1978.

The clubhouse was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in time to be re-opened on May 16 1974.

**1884**

## **Ararat Bowls Club - Vic**

- Foundation Date: 6<sup>th</sup> May 1884
- Date of affiliation: 1909 - affiliated with the Victorian Bowls Association
- Region or Division belongs to: Grampians
- Foundation President: WH Laby
- Foundation Secretary: J MacLean
- Foundation Treasurer: Unknown

Ararat Bowls Club was the 27th bowls club formed in Victoria, a year after Port Melbourne, Hamilton and Queenscliff, and 20 years after the first two bowls clubs formed Melbourne and Ballarat.

In 1884 the Ararat Club began with 3 rinks within the Ararat Botanical Gardens later adding another making 4 rinks. By 1927 the club had expanded this to 6 rinks.

From its infancy and formation with 6 members in May 1884 by August 1884 the number of members had grown to 49.

## The Elsternwick Club - Vic

- Date club was first formed 1898
- Date of affiliation 1900 with VBA
- Region Sandbelt Region, Victoria
- First President T J Sharp JP
- First Secretary J T Tatchell
- First Treasurer. A E Lillie

In 1898 Mr. Joseph Tatchell, a member of the Local Progress Society, and local A.N.A., conceived the idea of forming The Elsternwick Club. A meeting of prominent local residents was held in a room adjoining what is now known as The Dorchester Dance Hall," and a Committee was appointed to obtain suitable premises for the proposed club, and obtain a Licence under the Licencing Act.

The Club was duly established in a two-storey shop in Glenhuntly Road, now occupied by "Green Gables." The present-day Renown Theatre is built on land adjoining these premises.

The first committee consisted of—

President Mr T.G. Sharp JP

Vice Presidents: Messrs, A. C. Akhurst, C. F. Kirkham, J.P.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr A, E. Lillie, who held this position for close on twenty years.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. T. Tatchell.

General Committee: Messrs. F. Brace, G. Clements, A. Dunbar, F. W. Johnston, C. Masters, and J, Spiers

A billiard Table was installed, and later a desire to establish a bowling green resulted in the Club moving to a property in St. George's Road, on the present site of the Returned Soldiers' Club Rooms. This move took place about the year 1900. A new billiard room and a three-rink bowling green were established here, and the Club continued to progress, and two C Bowling Rinks were entered in the V.B.A. competition.

The necessity for larger club premises and bowling greens produced the next progressive step, which was to acquire the property known as "Stanmere" situated at the corner of St. George's Road and Sandham Street, and part of which is the site of the present Club premises. This move took place in the year 1918, and the President at the time was Mr. C. Cox.

It is a long step from "Green Gables" in 1898 to Sandham Street in 1946, but we still have with us two foundation members in Mr. Ernie Coulson and Mr. Jim Berry, and during the Club's history many fine gentlemen too numerous to mention have been outstanding club members and executives.

We pay tribute to these -gentlemen here, and no finer tribute can be paid in the future than by the collective enthusiasm of all members in the welfare and future progress of the Club.

**1902**

## **Mentone Bowling Club - Vic**

- Foundation Date: 27<sup>th</sup> November 1902
- Affiliation Date:
- First President: Dr. A. Fleming Joyce
- First Secretary: R.J. White

The Nepean Highway was a rough dirt track when a few friends living in the Shire of Moorabbin met at The Mentone Hotel and formed the Moorabbin Bowling Club. Annual subscriptions were Two Guineas (\$4-20).

The committee purchased the present site for \$150 and laid the first six-rink green for \$60, opening for play on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1910.

Tennis and Croquet were added later, and as other bowling clubs were being formed nearby, the name was changed to Mentone on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1910.

Lady members were admitted in 1919 and a liquor licence obtained in 1958.

Top bowlers were J.H. Sheedy who between 1900 and 1932 won three Australian Singles, two champions of champions and veteran singles. The club won its first pennant in 1912 and since then has won A2, A3, and B Flags. Bruce Andrews has been a R.V.B.A. Councillor for some years and has given outstanding service in promoting the game of Bowls and other areas of R.V.B.A. activity.

**1910**

## **Aberfeldie Bowling Club - Vic**

Foundation Date: 16th March 1910.

Affiliation Date:

First President: Mr David Elder

First Secretary: J.A. McIndoe

Following a meeting at Miss Dedrick's School, debentures were issued to purchase land in Scott Street.

A seven-rink green was constructed, costing \$668. And opened on November 26th the same year.

A pavilion was constructed and later extended to a bigger size. Electric lights were installed over the greens in 1948 and in 1956 ladies were admitted as associates.

1915

## Cohuna Bowls Club - Vic

Foundation Date: 4th June 1915

Affiliation Date:

Region/Division:

First President: Mr. W. Craig

First Vice Presidents: Mr. P. Kirby & Mr. R. Hutchinson

First Secretary: Mr. A. Nation

First Treasurer: Mr. F. Fraser

Our Club was formally established June 4th, 1915, but didn't begin to function until 1920, after World War 1. The following snippets from the Cohuna Farmer's Weekly over the ensuing years form both, an historical perspective and, in terms of modern day thinking, a humorous insight into Cohuna Bowls Club.

1915: CFW, May 21st, 1915

'Cohuna is gradually coming to its own. This week we have the happiness to announce the formation of a bowling club. The promoters have been busily, if quietly, at work on the project for the several weeks past, rounding up prospective supporters, with the result that the movement has already made considerable headway, whilst something like £60 is understood to have been collected.'

At a meeting, with good attendance, held in Frantz's Hall, elections resulted in: President: Mr. W. Craig:

Vice Presidents: Mr. P. Kirby & Mr. R. Hutchinson

Secretary: Mr. A. Nation

Treasurer: Mr. F. Fraser

1920: CFW, January 23rd, 1920

(After encouraging readers to support the Club and welcoming new members)

'They point out – though it should be hardly necessary – that the historic game of Bowls is a remarkably clean, wholesome and tranquillising diversion, and, also, that by bringing together men of different shades of thought and habit, in circumstances of amity and good will, the Club can do a great deal to promote a happier and more fraternal understanding in other relationships in life. For these reasons they solicit the active sympathy and cooperation of the community.'

After long delays and interruptions due to war, the Cohuna Bowling Green was at last a realised fact. It is a full four-ringed green, situated on the banks of the Gunbower Creek, within the town boundary. Sown by Mr. John Murley, an expert from Bendigo, with a mixture of Couch grass and Kentucky Blue, which is rapidly growing into a rich and velvety carpet.

The work of forming the Green has necessarily involved the promoters in considerable expense, but they claim that they have thereby added a valuable and permanent addition to the social resources of the town. The Cohuna Bowling Green. was formally opened for play on Wednesday afternoon. The attendance, however, was disappointingly meager considering the social importance of the occasion and the intrinsic interest of the game itself.

The Committee of Management were working up to the last hour in their efforts to give the necessary finishing touches to the ground, and to complete the general arrangements in time for the opening. In addition to footpaths and border seats, a marquee had been erected for the dispensation of refreshments. Mrs. Gibbard then threw the white jack, and Mrs Frantz bowled to it with the first ball; this brought the formal part of the proceedings to a conclusion.

1928/29:

The first existing records of the Club (now held by the Cohuna & District Historical Society) show that the Murray Valley Highway was made, the Club Colours were Blue and Gold, and the greens were lit by numerous, suspended lights. Two new rinks had been laid and a contract was let for a new 20 ft. x 12 ft. Pavilion. It was to be a Durobestos construction costing £ 80/17/1

1937:

Ladies were accepted as Associate Members – they went on strike and wouldn't, do the afternoon teas until they were accepted. The following year, you can see, they were again 'recalcitrant' and wouldn't, hand over any money.

1938: from "The first Fifty Years"

Money seems to speak all languages doesn't it? As far back as 1938, the Men's Committee wrote to the Ladies, requesting money to pay their bills. However, at a special meeting of the Ladies Committee, they decided not to hand it over to the men until they got a green in good condition for their Spoons Competition. The Ladies asked for an electric copper, but the men decided that the old, wood fired one was still good enough. However, those fighting words were no match for 80 angry women, and 'common sense prevailed'.

This was also the year that the Cohuna Shire agreed to building new greens at the present site, on Gunbower Island.

1940:

After two years of hard work, 16th March 1940 saw the big move to the new site. It had 12 grass rinks at a cost of £ 700. The old Pavilion was moved to the new site and three years later, electric lights were installed

1943:

IN 1943 each lady was asked to supply 2 oz. of sugar and 1 oz. of tea. You can imagine how much this helped the Club, for in those days, food and clothing was purchased by coupons. Mrs. Clayton donated 1/2 lb. of tea for the Opening Day, and at the end of the season, the Club finished with 12 lbs. of sugar and 5 lbs. of tea left over.

1944:

Ladies, other than members' wives were allowed to join the Club, and for the next few years the Club really thrived.

1952:

A new, brick Club House with shady veranda's was opened by the President, and the old one was moved and used as an implement shed.

1956:

Carpet Bowls was started, but the equipment was sold in 1957 because the new venture had not been a success.

1958:

Membership was increasing and by 1960 the building had been extended.

1968:

The Club started negotiating with the Cohuna Shire for two more greens, but after some bitter negotiations, a request for one more green was accepted.

1974:

Interest in Carpet Bowls was rekindled. It raised considerable funds for the Club and our local hospital.

1976:

A Committee was formed to run Bingo. They raised substantial funds for the Club building and furnishings. It continued to be run over the next 40 years by a loyal band of Volunteers, before closing due to lack of patronage.

1978:

The new Club House was built on its present site. A cooling system and gas heating was installed. By 1981 the new Kitchen and Bar were constructed, and we were granted a Liquor Licence.

1983:

Our third green was constructed, and new concrete paths were laid.

1985:

Cohuna Bowls Club became an Incorporated entity, and in 1987 was one of the first since Corporation to have a Lady Secretary.

1994:

A lot of research went into the design to improve the lighting on the greens. They were erected soon afterwards, and by 1999 the debt had been paid for.

2019:

By the time of the Centenary, our Club had dropped to about 120 members, but with the downturn in the Farming sector, without strong employment opportunities, and the 'shift' in people's interests, that number has now fallen to 64 members. Most of us are of retirement age, and we have just one or two under 50 years of age. All of the work in running and operating a Bowls Club is done by Volunteers. We hope we can continue to do this and find ways of attracting younger members, who can then carry on the traditions developed by our predecessors.

1918

## City of Echuca Bowling Club - Vic

Foundation Date: 28th May 1918

Affiliation Date:

First President: Dr. Elcoate

First Secretary: R. H. Draper

First Treasurer: A. Crow

Foundation Date: 28th May 1918

Affiliation Date:

First President: Dr. Elcoate

First Secretary: R. H. Draper

First Treasurer: A. Crow

Formed at the tail-end of World War I, City of Echuca Bowls Club has survived tough times and 100 years through the strength of its volunteer and membership base to become a successful club – both on and off the greens.

On May 28th, 1918, fifteen men met at the Mechanics Institute in Echuca to discuss the formation of a bowling club. The discussion was brief and the motion of Dr Elcoate, seconded by Mr W Grimwood stated: "That a bowling club be formed in Echuca." The motion was carried.

Dr. Elcoate, as president of the Echuca Progress Association called a meeting

And so, a century later, we will gather again to celebrate 100 years of bowling at Echuca.

During its 100 years, the club has had two names – firstly Echuca Bowls Club and more recently, City of Echuca Bowls Club Inc. During this time, it also occupied two sites – its original site was on railway land in Annesley Street, then the club moved to its present site in 1957.

For almost half of its life it was a male only club, supported by a lady's croquet club. For many years, the ladies were not able to participate in bowls at the Echuca Bowls Club, despite several attempts to move a successful motion at the men's committee meeting.

The Echuca Bowls Club has always had as its strength the number of volunteers who work hard to allow the club to function. It has not always been easy to maintain a profitable ledger and on a few occasions the club did come quite close to being in financial difficulties. A few attempts over the years to merger with existing clubs in the area failed so it has always been up to the members to keep the club afloat.

Throughout its history, Echuca Bowls Club has always maintained a strong membership. Two of its past members were awarded the RVBA Medal of Merit for their service to bowls – Allen Sewell in 2001 and Jim Campbell in 2003. The club has boasted four Victorian State singles champions – Olive Vicary (1965), Doug Phillips (1966), Melissa Roberts (2011) and Philip Thorn (2016). Perc Berryman also won the Victorian Country singles in 1951 and George Lynch won the same title in 1963.

Today, City of Echuca Bowls Club is a successful club, both on and off the greens. It has a strong membership, excellent facilities and four magnificent bowling greens. They pride themselves on being a friendly club and with all of this in mind, they look forward to celebrating their centenary in February 2018.

**1919**

## **Kilmore Bowling Club - Vic**

Foundation Date: September 1919

First President: Colin McNab

First Secretary: A. M. Luckie

A bowling green was first established in Moore Park, but it did not function effectively until it was re-organised in June 1922 and play began again on December 23, 1922.

Colin McNab remained president for the first 10 years. The original clubhouse has been rebuilt and a second green added. The club is now a member of the Central bowls association and has some pennant success in several grades.

**1930**

## **Casterton Bowling Club**

Formation Date: 03/06/1930  
Affiliation Date: 1930  
FWBD  
First President: E.D. Gazzard  
First Secretary: R. Booth

Founded in 1930. The first Jack was thrown by Mrs. Templeton, wife of Shire President Cr. W. Templeton. Mrs E.D. Gazzard, wife of club President had the honour of bowling the first ever bowl.

Casterton Bowling Club is situated in the Island Park Sporting Complex. It has a picturesque background of Pine and Gum trees along with a river (The Glenelg River).

The Green is Synthetic with a total of 8 Rinks.

The original clubhouse stood until 1984 before being replaced with the current one.

As of 2016/17 the club have 2 Men's and 2 Women's Division teams officiating in Pennant play in the FWBD.

For a small town, we are a very proud club that have achieved some good success since our arrival in 1930.

Current member numbers with Social bowlers stands at around 100 members in which about 50% are Pennant players.

1934

## The Bassendean Bowls Club – W.A.

Formation Date: 1934.

Affiliation Date:

District/Zone:

First President: Mr George Harber

First Secretary: Mr. George Harber (acting Secretary)

First Treasurer:

Theirs was the first section completed on the Bassendean Improvement Committee (BIC) Reserve. The following are the minutes of the meeting, convened by Mr R. A. McDonald, Chairman of the Bassendean Roads Board, of gentlemen interested in the formation of a bowling club, held at the Bassendean Town Hall, on October 15th 1934.

OPENING: Mr McDonald, in opening the meeting, expressed his pleasure at the attendance and welcomed the presence of Mr G. Clarke. The object of the meeting is to discuss the proposal to form a bowling club in the district. He outlined the Bassendean Roads Board's proposal in connection with the preparing and lease of the green and intimated that the gardener (Mr Harber) advised that the green would be ready by the end of November. There would also be a lighting scheme by the end of December. Mr G. Clarke was then called on by Mr McDonald. Mr Clarke thanked the convenor for the invitation and urged those present to form a club, and that he would render any assistance he could.

FUNCTION: There followed a general discussion of the proposal. It was moved by Mr Styles and seconded by Mr Bowen, that a bowling club be formed in Bassendean. Carried.

SECRETARY: Mr Loveridge and Mr Warren moved that Mr Harber be acting Secretary. Carried.

RULES: That a committee of five be appointed to draft rules and by-laws.

COMMITTEE: Messrs Loveridge, Miller, Bowen, Styles and Nadebaum.

MEETINGS: The Committee to meet on Monday October 22nd and report to a meeting on Monday October 29th in the Town Hall.

OFFICERS: These are held over until the rules are drafted. Vote of thanks to Mr McDonald. A.E. Nadebaum George Harber CHAIRMAN ACTING SECRETARY There were thirty-one foundation members. By the second meeting, plans for the pavillion/club room were called for. Additionally, there was a motion that the club affiliate with the Royal Western Australian Bowling Association (R.W.A.B.A.). For full members, subscription fees were set at 1.5.0. pounds. In their early months, the club sent out a plea to other clubs to give or loan them bowls. Fortunately, the North Perth and Mt Lawley Clubs responded. By April 1935, club rooms had been gained and they were operational by July. However the official opening was on November 9th, 1936 and in the presence of the then, Lieutenant-Governor Sir James Mitchell, and other distinguished visitors. In 1935, the club also made an entry in the Glick Trophy for the first time. In October of that year, the club entered the R.W.A.B.A. pennant competition. In November, the Bassendean Ladies Croquet Club was allowed the use of the club rooms and in particular the kitchen, an arrangement which was very amicable and lasted many years. In 1939-40 Bassendean won their first pennant in Division 7 and followed this up in 1941-42 by winning the pennant in Division 5. Through the war years the club was quite sound and financially strong. In March 1945, the Bassendean Roads Board asked the Bowling Club for representation on the War Loan Committee. In April that year, a minor milestone was passed, when ladies were permitted to bowl at the club in mixed fours, however, they were still not permitted to join. By the late forties the club had gained a second green and membership had reached 80. In 1952, a motion was passed 5-3 to allow ladies to join the club. They formed the Bassendean Ladies Bowling Association (club) of which there were eight foundation members. During this period E. Ford won the 1948-49 State Championship Singles and in 1952-53 Bassendean won the mid-week division 5 pennant. Indeed, the fifties were good years for the club. Membership increased with the advent of women into the club, the club won the division 3 pennant in 1954-55 and both the division 2 and 3 pennants in 1957-58. During this period, social activities picked up and many committees were formed. Coinciding with this, was the granting

of a Liquor Licence in 1956. The Bowling Club has not always been on its present site. Before 1961 it had been situated closer to the Tennis Club, however, in 1960, the President Mr Goggin announced plans to construct a new club-house, which was completed by November 1961 (to coincide with the start of the new bowls season). Where the fifties were a very good decade the sixties were less so with only one pennant won, division 3 in 1962-63. In addition, the club faced financial concerns coupled with worries regarding the rearrangement of the greens. The green problems came to a head in 1965, when they were deemed not good enough for pennants and the game transferred, this resulted in the greenkeeper resigning and a subsequent rise in the quality of the greens. Grumblings continued in the sixties, one incident involved Eric Nielsen, who was called to front the committee regarding an extremely offensive letter he had written which was accompanied by a trophy he had won earlier that year... Nielsen's resignation was accepted unanimously. Another incident involved a visitor who after a particularly good club dance in 1969, accidentally drove his car onto a green. The visitor sent a cheque for \$20 to cover damages... since there were none his money was returned, and he was invited to join the club.

### **History of Lawn Bowls (excerpt from Fred Fern)**

19th July 1588, Plymouth Bowling Green, Captain Thomas Fleming rushes onto the green to advise Sir Francis Drake that the Spanish Armada had been sighted off the lizard. His response has gone down in history, "There is plenty of time to win the game and thrash the Spaniards too." However, it was much earlier, in fact in 1299 that the Southampton Bowls Club green was reputed to have been laid. Chesterfield Bowling Club claims that their rink was laid in 1294 and, certainly in the early part of the 14th Century (1315-1330), Edward III banned the playing of bowls so that, "The Bowmen of England, would practice their archery." In fact, it seems that bowls was not always the gentle art we now know. In its early years, in fact, the game was prohibited with very severe penalties, levied by Magistrates, for those who broke the prohibition. There is no real evidence as to the style of the game, though during the reign of Richard II, it was called "gettre de pere" which translates in Norman French to "throwing a stone". There is not much doubts that the original bowls were made of stone, probably the roundest possible one, without bias. Sometime after 1409, bowls of wood appeared, mainly made of Boxwood, Holly, Yew and Oak. According to anecdotal evidence, the introduction of bias to the design of bowls seems to have been by accident. It is said that in 1522, Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, whose bowl split in two, rushed into his house, and took the spherical knob from the bannister post on his staircase, to replace his damaged bowl. The flat cut on the knob caused it to roll with a bias and allowed the Duke to curve his bowl around others. He passed this knowledge onto his friends and over time biased bowls came into being. Later bias was produced by placing lead or metal weights in the bowls, this practice has long been ceased, and is now against the rules. Bias is given to bowls entirely as a result of the shape of the bowl. Prior to 1871, the bias of a bowl was not stipulated, tested or in fact the same from bowl to bowl. In 1871 Taylors of Glasgow constructed the first "testing table." The idea was to allow the company to produced matched bowls from the factory, rather than wait for customers vague descriptions of their requirements. Taylors went on to create a scale for bias, 1 (weakest) through 5 (strongest). In 1893 the Scottish bowls association made 3 their standard. Finally in 1928 the International Bowls Board laid down the standards and specifications which with a few amendments are still the standards today.

### **The game today:**

The object of the game of bowls is to roll your bowls closer to the Jack (white ball) than your opposition. A set of bowls consists of four bowls. Lawn bowls is traditionally played on a green 40 m X 31 m. The green is divided into spaces called 'rinks', in which you play. On average there are 7 rinks on each green. (7 games can be played on the one green at a time) Firstly the 'Jack' is rolled up the green by one of the players. Once the Jack has come to rest at the other end of the green, each player consecutively takes turns in trying to roll their bowls as close as possible to the jack. Once all the bowls have been bowled, the player/team with the closest bowl to the Jack scores however many they have inside their opponents closest bowl. This is called an 'end'. Once you have given the score for that 'end', the Jack is rolled back the other way and another end is then played. A game can consist of 10 to 35 ends, or can be played to a predetermined score. The games can be played as singles, pairs, triples and fours.

**1938**

## **Maitland City Women's Bowling Club – NSW**

Foundation Date: 28<sup>th</sup> March 1938.

Affiliation Date:

District/Zone: Hunter District

First President: E. Atkinson

First Secretary: A. Holgate

First Treasurer: E. Roberts

In 1937 Mrs C. Norman and some friends wanted to have a game of bowls, but women were not allowed on the greens at the three local clubs in Maitland. George W. Norman, Mrs Norman's husband, purchased a block of land for the purpose of building a clubhouse and 2 rinks for the ladies to play on.

On 28th March 1938 a meeting was held at the Town Hall to form the new Ladies Bowling Club. It was to be called "Maitland and District Women's Bowling Club." The joining fee was one Guinea and the green fees were six pence.

The greens were officially opened on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1939. On the 21st April 1938 the first general meeting was held at Miss Edward's Tea rooms.

**1940**

## **Tantitha Ladies Bowling Club**

Formation date: 1940.

The first President was Mrs. H. Whittred.

The first Secretary/Treasurer was Mrs E.A. Nielsen.

In 2013 Mother Nature dealt our club a death blow during the devastating floods. At that time, the following were the executive: President: Mrs Joyce Binder: Secretary: Mrs Vyone Aisthorpe: Treasurer: Mrs. Shirley Searles.

**Dissolved 2013**

**1948**

## **Marian Bowls Club – SA**

Formation Date: 1th October 1948

Affiliation Date:

District/Zone

First President: Mr E. E. Doyle

First Secretary: Mr Brian Sheedy

First Treasurer: J. McCall

The formation of the Marian Bowls Club was first noted at a meeting held on the 11th October 1948.

A committee was formed to promote the game of bowls and that Committee comprised of, Police Sergeant O'Shea (Chairperson), J. Applethorpe, E.E. Doyle, F. Blake, E.C. Walz, W. Harvison and J. Murphy.

A public meeting was then called to assist with the promotion, and this was on the 30th October 1948.

Twenty people attended and all agreed to go ahead and construct the green.

The Mill Directors agreed to assist in the venture and loaned the Club sufficient money to proceed with the construction of the green. Like most club ventures the main labour was voluntary, both by farmers and the Mill workers. An important factor in the promotion of the club was that the road to Marian was so poor, and Mackay is 20 miles away and the Mill Directors thought that a sport on the spot would help to keep the staff and Mill workers happy.

Mr & Mrs Andy Fordyce local farmers donated the detached kitchen of their farmhouse this became the clubhouse. This high block room was renovated, and in 1963 a new clubhouse built In 1980 this was extended; to its present size to cater for the 100 members and 70 ladies members.

The first President was Mr. E. E. Doyle, Sec. Mr. Mr Brian Sheedy and Treasurer J McCall. There were three Trustees of the Club, Mr A Shepherd, Mr E Doyle and Mr H T Rogers. During 1951 it was very dry and it took most of the year to get sufficient grass coverage, and it wasn't until 23rd December that the first game of bowls was played. The next year the club competed in the pennants and conducted themselves very well. The Club was officially opened in 1952.

One problem the early members had to contend with was the Bagasse which emitted from the Mill Stack, and the cane black when farmers burnt, which was every day, nearly. Today this has been rectified to such extent as too almost be non-existent.

Club records of the achievements of the Marian bowlers are very credible over the years. The records at Association level are Champion of Champions singles for Marian Shield donated by Mrs A, Fordyce, three times, Hansen Shield, for championship Pairs seven times, Hodgkinson Shield Champion.

**1952**

## **Marion Women's Bowling Club – SA**

Foundation Date: March n952

Affiliation Date:

District/Zone

First President: Mrs Fordyce

First Secretary: Mrs G. Erickson

First Treasurer: Mrs J. Weeks

The Ladies club was formed in March 1952. Thirty-Five members joined the Club that year. The First President was Mrs. Fordyce, Secretary-Mrs G Erickson, Treasurer-Mrs J. Weeks and the Patron was Mr. R C McGinn, who held the office for only one year then Mrs Vi Waghorn - was elected and held this position for 28 years.

They had many ups and downs in the first few years, with the population being transient, but the foundations proved strong and were never broken.

1952

## Ocean Grove Bowling Club - Vic

Foundation Date:

Affiliation Date:

District/ Zone:

First President:

First Secretary:

First Treasurer:

This history booklet has been produced to mark the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the official Opening of the Club in November 1954. Emphasis has been placed on recording the efforts of our foundation members whose efforts and initiative built a bowling club from nothing.

Since that first opening the Club has gone from strength to strength, but this historian suggests that the administrators who followed have merely added to what was already built.

Therefore this booklet concentrates on our formation and the following twenty months of continuous effort that built a bowling club. "Extracts from the Minutes" demonstrates the seemingly endless decisions that had to be made and the tasks that had to be undertaken. Later in the booklet the history of the Club since the first opening has been summarised. The main source of information has been the official minutes of the Club, supplemented by annual reports where available. Bowling club notes as submitted to the Geelong Advertiser by Alan Ray over a period of years, and excerpts from the Geelong Advertiser have also been utilised.

Important in helping place events in context have been the memories of people such as Shirley Hassett, Thelma Smith, Gwen Ray, Lorraine and Owen Holbrook, Bruce Ford, Lyle Grundell and John Menzies who were there in the beginning.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance that has been provided by Karen Foley in transforming many pages of untidy handwriting into this final version.

Norm Thomas  
Club Historian

## 1953

### Ocean Grove Ladies Bowling Club – Vic

Formation Date:

Affiliation Date:

District/Zone:

First President: Mrs Jessie Barrie

First Secretary: Mrs C. Willmott

First Treasurer: Mrs M. Skinner

Ladies:

This very important section of the Club is first mentioned in Club minutes of 16th February 1953, less than one month after the Club was formed. At that meeting it was resolved that "The President be authorised to approach certain ladies in Ocean Grove asking them to take initiative in forming a Ladies Section for affiliation to the Ocean Grove Bowling Club, subject to a General Meeting agreeing to such formation, the suggested subscription being £1.1.0 to 30th June 1954".

At the next committee meeting held 23rd February the President reported that he had interviewed Mrs. Wallace in connection with the formation of a Ladies Section and had received an excellent hearing.

At the committee meeting held 10th March the President reported that Mrs. Wallace had contacted him and stated that owing to many previous commitments she was unable to undertake the organising of a Ladies Section but would be pleased to join.

At the committee meeting held 17th March it was resolved that "the following ladies be invited to a meeting on Monday 13th April at 3pm to discuss the formation of a Ladies Section and committee of the Bowling Club, with all members of the Club committee who can attend, in the Public Hall at Ocean Grove". A list of 32 names was attached, including Shirley Hassett, Lorraine Holbrook, Gwen Ray and Thelma Smith, all who shared their memories with us at our 2002 Nostalgia Night. A further 21 names were added at the next meeting when it was also resolved that the membership of the Ladies Section be limited to fifty, subject to the approval of members at a General Meeting.

Subsequently seventeen ladies met with four members of the club committee on 13th April 1953 to discuss the formation of the Ladies Section. This became the inaugural meeting of the Ladies Section. The first office-bearers were Mrs Jessie Barrie (President), wife of the President of the Club Committee, Mrs C Willimott (Secretary) and Mrs M Skinner (Treasurer). By 30th June 1954 the Ladies membership had grown to 31.

The Ladies Section immediately set about raising much needed funds. Items mentioned in Club minutes of the time were Popular Girl contest, Teenage Quest, kiosks, flag-bridge nights. Street kiosks/stalls were held in Geelong as well as Ocean Grove.

The flag-bridge nights were held regularly at The Chalet. The Ladies Section was autonomous from the beginning. It had its own constitution, conducted its own affairs and ran its own bank account. Substantial amounts of money were raised, banked and handed to the Club committee, at the Ladies' discretion, annually or at times of need.

At a Club committee meeting of 12th October 1953, the Ladies were congratulated on a fine bank balance of £94.1.4.

At a Club committee meeting of 22nd February 1955, the Ladies were sent a letter of thanks for £100 and the offer of windows, seats and lockers for the clubhouse.

The annual accounts of 1955-56 show that of a total Club income of £1661.5.6 in the year, £305.13.0 was gifted by the Ladies Section. For the year 1954-55 the Ladies had handed over £276/16/4.

The Ladies own annual meeting held in July 1956 reported that £500/15/- had been raised during the financial year and that after presenting £300 to the men's section, purchasing a piano and sundry other items, the year finished with a credit balance of £98/17/2.



## 1957

### Kempsey Heights Bowling Club - NSW

Formation Date: 10<sup>th</sup> April 1957

Affiliation Date:

District/Zone:

First President: Mr. F.A. Slack

First Secretary:

First Treasurer:

50+ years and still going strong!

A meeting was called on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 1957. The convenor of the meeting, which was held in the C.W.A Hall, was the town's Mayor – Mr. F. A. Slack.

At this meeting, it was decided to form a bowling club and bowling enthusiasts be invited to donate one pound (\$2) as a foundation membership fee. The new club idea quickly became successful with some 460 members paying their foundation membership fee. Mr. Slack was elected as the club's first President and he was requested to approach the council to seek land available for the formation of the new club in West Kempsey on the "Mountain View Reserve".

It was resolved at a meeting that the club formed would be known as "Kempsey Heights" and not "West Kempsey". Meetings continued to be held regularly. In 1958, the council made land available for the erection of the club's buildings and greens.

Work began almost immediately – site clearing was organised under the coordinated efforts of A. T. B. Anderson, Harry Hession, Dexter Thomas, Ron Escott and Harold Kemp, who organised the necessary machinery and equipment. The site clearing took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 1958, with some 76 people participating.

In 1959, Mr. Jim Craig undertook the task to raise funds by membership subscriptions, debentures, and life membership at 25 pounds (\$50). Negotiations took place with the Grand United Lodge to borrow 20,000 pounds, which was granted.

Meanwhile, a lady's auxiliary was formed, and fundraising was attacked from all angles to assist with finances. By November 1959 the club's second green had been completed.

Kempsey Heights Grand United Bowling & Recreation Club was under way.



*Original Clubhouse 1961*

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 1960, Br. George Bale, the Grand Master of the United Order of Oddfellows, laid the foundation stone for the new building under construction, being built by Mr. Dudley Blight for 23,000 pounds. The new completed clubhouse was officially opened on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1961.

Since this time, several major building extensions have taken place.

- 1977 – Further extensions to the clubhouse.
- 1982- Third green constructed.
- 1998 – Installation of a completely new bar.
- 2006/7 – Extensions to sports area of the club and outside deck and installation of two new carpet greens. This created more floor space for members, an outdoor smoking area and comfortable viewing of all bowling greens.



*Old, then new bar*



*New Sports lounge, Outside of club today*

Work continued the greens and clubhouse surrounds, which finally culminated with the winning of the Small Clubs Best Clubs Development category in the 2008 Clubs NSW Awards for Excellence.

From humble beginnings, our great club has grown to be an establishment that we can all be proud of.

**1958**

## **Memorial Bowling Club – Alice Springs - NT**

Formation Date: 1958

Affiliation Date:

Region/Division

First President: Mr A. W. Greatorex

First Secretary: Mr F. W. Hazelwood

First Treasurer:

Extract from the "Centralia advocate" Alice Springs Friday 7th November 1958.

The Northern Territory's first bowling green was officially opened in the grounds of the Alice Springs Memorial Club last Saturday afternoon, and an inaugural round of matches was played by many members.

The official opening was performed by Mr. Spencer Butler, who is president of the South Australian Bowling Association and vice president of the Australian Bowls Council. More than a hundred people attended the ceremony, which was held in ideal weather and bowling conditions.

It was very gratifying to see about 30 bowlers go onto the rinks and play competitive bowls. The game was a fifteen-end match, and some very close figures resulted.

Gordon Armstead presented a spoon for the first man to rest his bowl on the jack.

This resulted in a popular win for Charles James only a few minutes after the opening.

Gordon also presented a handsome trophy to be contested annually by singles players.

Mr. Brocky Brown who came along with Mr Butler from Adelaide has donated two return air fares to the club. These will be to the two bowlers who will represent Alice Springs in Adelaide next year.

On Sunday morning Mr. Brown gave a lecture on bowls to members and cleared up many points that were still in doubt.

Mr Butler spoke about Alice Springs becoming a full partner in the great bowling fraternity.

He envisaged frequent visits by inter-State bowlers early in the New Year and added that he would arrange a visit of about 20 bowlers from various clubs in South Australia to visit as soon as it could be arranged.

The president of the new Bowling Club, Mr Tony Greatorex paid tribute to the work of those responsible for the club's formation.

Memorial Club president Mr Bernie Kilgariff, said the acquisition of a bowling club would be a boom to Alice Springs, and to the Territory as a whole.

Mr Butler then called on Mrs. Kilgariff to send down the first jack, while Mrs. Greatorex sent down the first bowl. At that point the Australian Flag was broken out followed by enthusiastic and prolonged applause.

Next Saturday the club intends to start its first championship to run over about Four weekends. All intending players should hand their names to the secretary by next Friday.

The club committee at present consists of Mr. A. W. Greator, president, Mr. F. W. Hazelwood, secretary, and Messrs A. C. Jones and J. C. Marriott.

## 1959

### Skipton Golf Bowling Club – NSW

Formation Date: 9<sup>th</sup> September 1959

Affiliation Date: 1960

District/Zone: Corangamite Bowls Division, West Coast Region

First President: Rev. F. Spencer

First Secretary: Mr B. Powers, Mr P.E. Coates

First Treasurer: Mr T. Conlon

#### Men's Section:

First President: The Rev F. Spencer.

First Secretary: Mr B. Powers, Mr P.E Coates.

First Treasurer: Mr T Conlon.

#### Ladies Section:

First President: Mrs F. Spencer:

First Secretary: Mrs A Coates.

First Treasurer: Mrs. J.Grist.

The first committee meeting was held on the 9.9. 1959, and with many hours of working bees planed the eight rink grass green and surrounds were ready for the official opening by Mr E. D Mackinnon on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1960.

The Male members affiliated with Ballarat District in 1960, but in 1962 decided to sever connections with Ballarat and join the Colac District, later in the year to change its name to Corangamite.

The Lady members were also affiliated with the Ballarat District for the first couple of years then in 1965 joined the Camperdown District Ladies Bowling Association.

With the amalgamation of the VLBA and the RVBA to become Bowls Vic and with new boundaries in place this union lead to the closure of the Camperdown Ladies Association. So on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011 it was agreed that our club would close their respective committees and amalgamate as one, leading to the Ladies joining the Men in the Corangamite District.

In 2007, due to many years of drought and strict water restrictions we were fortunate to receive funding through the Corangamite Shire and the Victorian government to install a synthetic surface. So with the passing of the years our bowling membership has declined, we have one Saturday and one midweek pennant team and both Ladies and Men play both days. We are a very small club but have over the years, won our share of Pennant Finals and district events.

## 1964

### Valentine Women's Bowling Club - NSW

Foundation Date: 29<sup>th</sup> January 1964

Affiliation Date: 11<sup>th</sup> May 1964

District Zone Belong to: Lake Macquarie District WBA Region 6

First President: Mrs Jean Charters

First Secretary: Mrs Enid Webster

First Treasurer: Mrs Joyce Holt

March 1963: Valentine Progress Association carried out inspection of area covered with scrub and weeds, this was 8 acres, 400 yds of Lake Macquarie foreshores. A Meeting was called on 20 March in the Progress Hall.

32 people were present, Bart Richardson from the Assoc.NDBA, had the idea of forming a Bowling Club.

Application was made to Council for the lease of 8 acres. On 22 June the application was granted from Council.

The Club applied for affiliation to NDBA. \$5 debenture to the value of \$5000 was raised to enable work to commence.

Bob Crawford with his bulldozer cleared the ground and tenders were called for construction of first green. Tender of \$3000 was accepted and work began. In March 1964 a green was ready for play.

There was no shelter and tables were set under the trees, the afternoon tea was made with extension of a cable from a light pole.

By the end of July the Clubhouse was completed. Card parties and film nights were held. The next green was started. Those 2 days were the worst on record, drizzling rain and wind, wire was laid to stop the grass from blowing away. La-dies helped to plant grass and organized lunch and afternoon teas.

#### FORMATION OF WOMEN'S CLUB

Inaugural meeting was held on 29 January 1964 with 45 people attending. Officers and Committees were elected and fees set at thirty shillings per annum (\$3) to be paid to the VBC with nine shillings to be returned to the Women's Club. Warners Bay Bowling Club ran a Benefit Gala and sent twenty-six pounds (\$52) Patron was Mrs A Young of NDWBA.

A Special meeting on 8 June 1964 was called with the men in the Progress Hall by Ray Lennox, NDWBA Mrs Young, Mrs Dwyer, Miss Warhurst were present, President, Secretary and Treasurer from the Association. At this meeting the Women's Club was formed. The President was Jean Charters, Secretary Enid Webber, Treasurer Joyce Holt.

Coaching and instruction was arranged on private greens owned by Mrs A Young and Mr Lowndes with permission for roll-ups generously given by Belmont Macquarie BC. The first roll U-up on Valentine's new green was held on 12th April 1964, mixed, full uniform with 48 players, then 32 ladies on the first ladies' day.

Affiliation was granted on 11 May. Membership was 24 with 39 at the end of 1964, membership was closed at 70 with a waiting list and preference given to VBC members' wives and residents of

the Valentine/Croudace Bay areas. A constitution was drafted and accepted then amended as necessary.

A Licence was granted on approximately 21 November 1964. The Official opening was 25 September 1965.

The history of the club is, of course, a record of its sporting results and the administration that made these results possible, this is presented. The Executive of the Club, President, Secretary and Treasurer are those ladies who accepted the responsibility to see that all aspects of our club have been run to uphold the utmost sportsmanship. But as the years have passed many changes have occurred in club life and it has taken a great degree of wisdom, ingenu-ity and common sense to adapt. Grown strong in our culture right from inception has been a deep sense of emotional support and caring for each other in times of personal stress. This is further illustrated as we take on new members (inevitably younger) and observe how quickly they form friendships and team associations and fit into the framework of the committees that structure our organisation. At our last general meeting membership was 126 (we fielded 8 teams in 2011 pennants).

In reading the past history of the club our situation is very different now, so perhaps a brief summary of our current circumstances before noting how things have evolved will be useful. Nothing has changed in respect of our outlook. We are on Croudace Bay, part of Lake Macquarie, and our bowling outlook is superb. Sheltered bay with many yachts at mooring and a large recreational park adjacent. We have two greens, one synthetic and one grass.

The synthetic green was laid down in late 2010. This was a gift by Flo and Alan Smith, both long term members. The synthetic green is very popular with all our players. Our club services a residential area - a mixture of families and retirees - there is just a small shopping village. After several renovations the club is now double storied with a function area (seating approx. 100) and offices upstairs - the usual bar facilities, poker machine area and betting facilities downstairs plus a Bistro "Jessies" with outside eating area and club barbecue. Club membership is around 2,500. The club is a co-operative, run by a Board of Directors with a CEO. The Valentine Men's Bowling Club, The Fishing Club, The Golf Club and Valentine Women's Bowling Club are all subsidiary clubs. Not only have we grown but so has the club in total. Two of our members have been directors - Betty Simpson, now retired and Glenda Morgan, who is a liaison officer between the Board and VWBC. This is not intended to be a history of the VB Co-op merely to illustrate the huge difference in the way we now function. Our 'hands on' roll in the building of the club as in 1960-70 has been refined.

Our interaction with VBC flourishes with many mixed competitions played annually, social galas played Thursday evenings and Sundays. Coaching and umpiring joint committees have been established with VBC with, of course, due regard to the conditions of play pertinent to each association. Duties are shared when necessary. A very happy connection exists when either VBC or VWBC are competing, members of either club come in support. The other area in which great co-operation exists is in charity support, for example, the 2011 disaster in Queensland, we all worked together to raise an unprecedented amount.

In the past few years there has been much discussion and debate on the subject of the amalgamation of the RNSWBA and the NSWBA, if the example of the VBC and VWBC is examined the future of amalgamation in our club has prospects. Two VWBC ladies, Betty Simpson and Shirley Shepherd, have now been accorded Life Membership of the VBC for the assistance they have given with catering etc.

In the year 2000 the LMDWBA became a separate entity to the NSWDBA. Twenty-one clubs became a district with its own competitions, and we are now eligible for selection to those who will lead us to State.

This then sets the arena in which we function, and the appended honours list will show the results.

Meanwhile within the VWBC itself our Patron is Velma McArthur. Velma leads by example and although sparing of words provides us with a wonderful standard of dress and demeanour on the green which is invaluable. Velma is a mentor to all in office and a welcome companion on the green. Her name appears consistently on the honours board.

Our Life Members include Jean Charters - Jean was inaugural President and as such has left a legacy of energy, dedication and regard for the club that has set us on the road for many years of prosperous bowling. Jean has not been among us for some years now but celebrated her 100th birthday in September 2011. Joy Quinlan - who although living at a little distance maintains a keen interest in our affairs. Edith Galt-whose zest for life is an inspiration and Betty Searant whose coaching has touched us all and who has just taken on another year as Vice President and lastly Margaret Oxenford - whose artistic talents will long be remembered.

In 2011 State implemented a new constitution - clubs are advised to adopt this model as their own with the addition of their own By Laws. Our own Constitution has also been revised this year by Narelle Mullen, Gwen Eagle and input from Secretary Gwen Gould. Work has yet to be done on By Laws and Policies. State has adjusted Districts to Regions and we now find ourselves in Region 6 which lines us up with the NSWBA. Lake Macquarie District was formed effective 1 January 2000.

In 1998 changes to procedures were implemented to comply with the Rules of VBC and the Co-operatives Act and the State and Federal Discrimination Act. This impacted on our banking procedures and meant that we had to transfer our funds to the VBC and conduct our former banking procedures through the Co-op, receiving monthly statements from the Co-op confirming our financial status. Other procedures involving memberships were evolving necessitating changes to our Constitution. However, the VWBC has continued to be masters of its own affairs and maintain its independence. Bowling clubs in general are having a decline in membership perhaps due to difficult economic times, however, we are able to claim additions to our membership of a number of younger very keen bowlers greatly enhancing our competitive status.

Socially we keep our standard up, our charity and invitation days are well patronized, social and catering committees chaired (in 2011) by Barbara Bennett and Coralie Ward provide beautiful goods. Edith Galt still presents her Encouragement Award and Past Presidents' Consistency is a Gala Day for contestants and Past Presidents. This event was arranged by the Past Presidents in place of an event sponsored by Joy Quinlan for many years. We are as a club very active in District affairs as our results show, we also assist District with venue for events when required as obligated.

In respect of our obligations to charity, and the years 2005-2011 showed no reduction in our efforts, our usual donations were given and most years a new recipient was found. In the course of scanning the minute books a very interesting document came to light. Appended to the 26th Annual Report the then Treasurer had totalled contributions by the VWBC to the VBC amounting to \$43,871. Pleasing to note that charity does begin at home. Another small document lists the donations by members to the Ladies Room and Boardroom.

Uniform has seen many and often radical changes. Founder President Jean always said if she has as much as a stick in her hand, everyone thought she was checking skirt lengths. Gone are the white dresses (belt must be worn) and white stockings. Two piece suits, pedal pushers, slacks, shorts in white or junior navy provide a variety of uniforms and coloured Pennant shirts make a colourful scene on the green. Remember, at the Official Opening on 22nd March 1966 it was white gloves as well.

From day one the women set about raising money systematically and, on most occasions, enjoyably. They held regular card nights (come and bring your own cards, card table, thirty cents admission and a plate for supper with two servings required). Film nights, seats provided, bring

entry fee and a plate for supper. When galas started it was bringing your entry fee and something (fruit, veg. Eggs) to be parcelled into the Winner's Trophies. They ran bus trips, Melbourne Cup parties, Fashion Parades, Art Shows, Craft Shows, Wine Tastings, Cooking and Make-up demonstrations, Theatre Parties, BBQ's and Yacht Trips. As they enjoyed these functions, they made money for their Club. Members and others donated raffles of great variety and value. Fair Day and Charity Day every year, with tables of craft, cakes, jams, pickles and White Elephant items all loaded up for sale.

The Club started with nothing, they had to have essentials to entertain, crockery, cutlery, cooking utensils, tablecloths, teapots and more. The VBC kitchens needed all these and the "girls" went at it with a will. They started with a kitchen table and trolley and went on from there. With meals spread out for service and gusting winds bringing the dust down from the roof, they also paid for a kitchen ceiling. Every year they gave generously to the VBC - a mower for the greens, floor covering for the kitchen, cash donations on occasions, money for scoreboards, over three thousand dollars towards carpet and so on. Club records show that in their first 7 years they averaged donations to the VBC of \$700 plus per annum. \$5,000 was also paid to VBC to enable the new room for the women to be built where the restaurant kitchen is now sited.

On many occasions, when they had a project looming and insufficient funds, members loaned money (interest free) for 12 months to facilitate completion. Eventually they equipped the kitchen with commercial quality fittings, a stove, Bain Marie, etc. to allow ease of food preparation. Special days then meant baked dinners with all the trimmings. Valentine has always had wonderful cooks and the hospitality was well known in the Districts, both men's and ladies', resulting in extra visitors to the Club. They not only spent money for VBC and VWBC, every year they supported charities. The Hunter Valley Cancer Appeal, Mater Hospital Oncology, Heart Foundation, Belmont Hospital, Bowl for Others and many others benefited.

From the beginning part of the membership of VWBC entailed working on the ROSTER. This was mandatory, with penalty if you didn't. This meant catering for afternoon tea for VBC weekend games and Pennant sandwiches. VWBC also catered all special occasions for VBC, State, District, Inter Club visits etc. One catering committee report at the AGM recorded they had prepared and served 1,000 meals that year. It can be understood why, at one General Meeting, the Chairman of Catering commenced her report with one word - HELP! She faced High Tea for 90 retired bowlers one day with a invitation Day with full greens the next. The Club Catering Book shows a notation for an Invitation Day with menu, cost and a bottom-line reading DON'T PANIC! While Catering generated lots of hard work, the kitchen was famous for the fun and games the workers got up to. Lots of stories told of those antics with a lady remembered for chasing other ladies with a wet mop.

Valentine Women love to bowl. They travel all over Port Stephens, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie and have competed in Carnivals from Grafton to Illawarra. 'Have bowls will travel' is the catch phrase. They've competed with quite a lot of success in District events and proudly brought home to the Club quite a few Pennant flags, No 3 in 1965, No 3 in 1991, No 2 and 5 in 1992, No 4 in 1995 No 2 and 3 in 1998, Nos 1 & 4 in 2000, No 2 in 2002, Nos 1, 3 & 5 in 2006 o 4 in 2009 o 5 in 2011.

Wonderful Unfurling Days were celebrated and added to stored memories of other great fun days, Founder President Jean Charters Days (with a prize for the neatest card kept) and Margaret Boleyn Days with her Scottish pride having the piper lift the roof off the VBC, the Joy Quinlan Consistency, Edith Galt Consistency and Past Presidents Consistency.

Many members over the years have shown their talents and entertained us at Christmas Dinners. Some acts were out to raise funds for local charities and entertained at VBC. These acts were always in demand at District Concerts and showed great flair. The antics at rehearsals would appear to eclipse the actual concert. Special occasions at the Club saw beautiful decorations and

floral arrangements made by gifted members to beautify the surroundings. No task was too hard or menial, when the new green was ready to be planted, they worked all weekend with the men. Conditions were atrocious and wire netting was put down to help retain the grass. Founder President Jean sent women home for sheets from their linen presses to further protect the green. They also made and served the morning and afternoon teas that weekend.

A sterling bunch of ladies founded this Club. They worked hard and cheerfully. Many firm friendships still hold today even though some are too old/frail to continue bowling. Some have gone to the 'perfect greens' the jokes tell us, but one thing's for sure, they loved their Club.

We now are the lucky ones, our girls still work in the kitchens as needed, but all the equipment we enjoy using was provided by those who went before us. We still make money and enjoy the camaraderie of our fellow members. The standards of the Club were established by our founders. From the members, we say a heartfelt "thank you". Long may we prosper!

## 1966

### Eaton Bowling and Social Club

Foundation Date: November 1966

Affiliation Date:

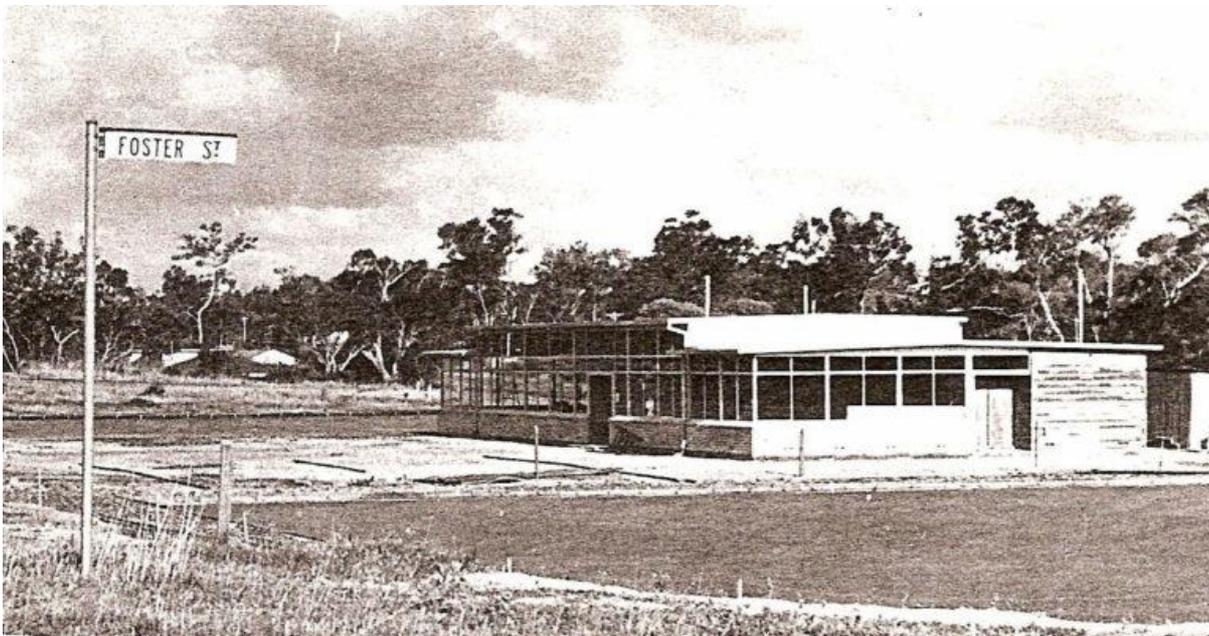
District/Zone

First President: Tim Kreitling

First Secretary: Doug Frost

First Treasurer: Doug Frost

The Eaton Bowling and Social Club was formed in November 1966, with Tim Kreitling as the first President, and Doug Frost the first Secretary Treasurer.



In September of 1968 the club received permission from the Dardanup Shire to lease the current site bounded by Pratt Road, Eagle Crescent, and Foster and Bobin Streets. In the 1968 Annual Report, President Tim Kreitling reported the club having 70 members.

Construction of the first green (A) commenced in late 1968 with the sinking of a dam to solve the problem of water supply and bulldozing began with the fill for the green being soil dredged from the Collie River. February of 1969 saw the planting of couch runners on 'A' green. In late 1970 a second green was added and members rolled their first bowls on the bent green.

The Eaton Bowling and Social Club was incorporated on the 20 July 1969 and rules lodged on the 1 August 1969.

The club house was built in 1972 by volunteers from within the club and local community, with the Vice President of the time, Reg Fishwick (1971 – 72), being the designer, honorary building inspector, and hardworking tradesperson. The first social was held at the club house in late December 1972 with about 120 people attending.

In early 1973 a third green was added with much of the voluntary work being provided by quite a few non-bowlers – Jack and Charlie Barbetti and Sam Catalano.

At the official opening on 2 December 1972 by Mr Ivan Manning, MLA, 56 bowlers played in a fours competition.

The first major competition to be held at the club was the Westfarmers Open Fours in 1972. The first Eaton Carnival was in 1974, with 716 players competing during all the events.

Some prominent office bearers over the years were:

Tim Kreitling (Club President 1966-72 and first Captain 1972-73)

Doug Frost (Secretary Treasurer 1966-70; President 1972-72)

Alec Dixon (Secretary 1970-73)

Maisie Frost (foundation President 1969-70 and 1973-75)

Helen Cowin (foundation Treasurer 1967-70 and President 1970-73)

Ivy Humphreyson (foundation Secretary from 1969-72; club coach in 1973, and club captain from 1972-75)

Ron Pendlebury (Secretary Treasurer 1976-84)

Maeve Kreitling (Treasurer and Captain 1970-72; Captain 1978-81)

Glad Codd (foundation member and on committee from 1973-77 and Patroness 1978-86)

Dom Garbelini (president 1975-78)

John Butterfield (President 1986-90; Secretary 1984-88)

May Denton (Committee 12 years; Captain 1984-87; President 1987-90; SW League President 1993-94)

Bob Lee (Committee member 1982-1997; Captain 1987-94; Scroungers Secretary 1983-86; Men's Darts President 1982-88; Club President 1995-97)

Arthur Tate (Treasurer 1984-90)

Ron Mathews (Treasurer 1990-97)

Sylvia Garbelini (SW League President 1980-81; Club Captain 1981-84; President 1986-87; Secretary 1994-77; flower lady for many years)

Carol Lee (Committee 1982-93; Secretary 1982-87; SW Country Zone Secretary 1996-98)

Bonnie Griffin (Club Captain 1987-90; SW League Secretary 1980-81; Secretary 1991-94; SW Country Zone President 1990-92)

Joan Montgomery (Secretary 1988-91; Treasurer 1992-94,1997-98; committee 10 years), and

Bob McGuckin - Men's Scroungers Treasurer 1980-94

## 1967

### Macarthur Bowls Club Inc. – Vic

Formation Date:

Affiliation Date: 6th November 1968

District/Zone: Far Western District Bowls Association

First President: Stan Ford

First Secretary: Jim Bennett

First Treasurer: Claude Kelley

In 1967 a construction committee was formed to prepare the land and lay a bowling green. Trees were removed from the proposed site and the Bowling Green was put down in 1968 at the cost of \$4500 and much volunteer work.

The Club Affiliated with the V.B.A. and V.L.B.A in 1968. and held its first opening day on November 6th 1968.

The Macarthur Bowls Club Inc Affiliated with the Far Western District Bowls Association in 1969 and entered a men's pennant team.

The Ladies Affiliated with the Far Western District Ladies Bowls Association in 1970 and entered their first pennant team.

In 1968/69 there were 41 men members and 39 lady members.

The first President was Stan Ford,

Secretary was Jim Bennett

Treasurer was Claude Kelley.

The first ladies committee consisted of:

President Mrs E Fahey,

Secretary Mrs May Watson,

Treasurer Mrs E Sharrock.

After much fund raising and hard work in 1972 a Pavilion was erected, the members would no longer have to bring their thermoses and lunch and sit on the grass by an old tin shed and have their cuppa. Final payments of the clubrooms were made in 1975.

Several members from neighbouring bowls club Branxholme joined Macarthur when their club unfortunately disbanded in 2004/05 season. It was a great boost to our club, as our numbers were getting low.

In 2006 the club decided to lay a synthetic green. Much hard work, cash donations from club members of \$35,000 and a grant of \$60,000 from the State Government & \$5,000 from the Moyne Shire Council made the project possible.

In 2008 our club celebrated 40 years of bowling, and in March 2009 we also celebrated as our new synthetic surface was opened.

Our next major project is to build a new toilet, change room and attached shedding for machinery, as our existing buildings are quite dilapidated. We are working with the Moyne Shire to this end as our green is situated on Crown Land.

At present we have 47 members in total. We are a happy little club who all work well together. Most of all we love our bowls.

Club dissolved Macarthur Bowls Club Inc.

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**1972**

## **Branxholm Bowling Club – Vic**

Formation Date: 1972

Affiliation Date:

District/Zone:

First President:

First Secretary:

First Treasurer:

### **Brief History**

The club began with a grant of \$4,400.00 from the Public Works Department.

With the help of volunteer labour the club opened on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1974 with 36 males and 32 female members.

Club dissolved 2004/2005 season.

**1978**

## **Mingara Women's Bowling Club - NSW**

Foundation Date: January 1978

Affiliation Date: June 1978

District/Zone: Central Coast District Women's Bowling Association

First President: Nell Sheave

First Secretary: Doris Cragg

First Treasurer: Jenny Summers

Our bowling club was the first affiliated club established when Mingara Recreation Club was formed in our local community in 1978.

**1988**

## **Reynella Bowling Club - S.A**

Foundation Date: 1988

Affiliation Date: 1988

Region/ Division: Metropolitan South

First President: Colin Keane

First Secretary: Mr. A. M. Degenhardt

First Treasurer:

Grew out of discussions held at Reynella Community Centre of the desire to establish a bowling club in the community centre complex. The club was established and built in conjunction with the city of Onkaparinga which is the owner of the clubhouse building and land.

Metropolitan - South COLIN KEANE

**1992**

## **Greensborough Bowling Club – Vic**

Formation Date: April 1992

Affiliation Date: September 1994

District/Zone: Yarra Region

First Presidents – Frank Lowry and Jewel Davis

First Secretaries – Wally Holt & Pat Hyde

First Treasurer – Ray Rattray Wood & Joan Grose

History of the Club. In 1993 the Shire of Diamond Valley offered us the Library of the closed Watsonia High School for our Clubrooms and the Sports Grounds for our Greens so with funding from Federal Government, Shire of Diamond Valley and a Bank Loan as well as money that members had raised from fundraising, we were able to refurbish the library and build our greens and surrounds.

Then with the hard work of our Members, we were able to open Greensborough Bowling Club on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1994. The then Presidents of R.V.B.A. and V.L.B.A. along with Federal and Diamond Valley representatives and 200 members were all present on the day.

We have been able to field reasonable teams with moderate success.

## 2012

### City of Geelong Bowls Club Inc - VIC

Formation Date: 2012 it was the merger of 2 older clubs – Geelong West Bowling Club and Drumcondra Bowls Club

Affiliation Date: 2012

Region and/or Division belongs to; Geelong Bowls Region

First President: Peter McLean

First secretary: Hugh Macpherson

First treasurer: Christine Kilsby

Geelong West bowling club was founded in 1912 and Drumcondra Bowls Club in 1948. Both clubs recognised they faced with older facilities, lack of parking and falling membership, all suggesting an uncertain future. The strength of the merged entity will enable the City of Geelong Bowls Club to build a new facility overcoming all the negative aspects affecting the former clubs.

## 2013

### Palm Lake Resort Truganina Bowls Club - VIC

Formation Date: 24/3/2013  
Affiliation Date: July/August 2013  
Region and/or Division: Melbourne Metro West

First President: Des Bryceland  
First Secretary: David Webster  
First Treasurer: David Webster

Palm Lake Resort Truganina is a life style community for over 50's. The first residents moved into the Resort in early 2012. One of the main features of the Resort is an 8 rink (carpeted) under cover bowling green with lights.

The bowling green is for the exclusive use of all residents, their families and friends. A number of residents had previous bowls experience and expressed the desire to form a club to be affiliated with Bowls Vic. Affiliated Membership is restricted to residents of Palm Lake Resort Truganina, but all residents gain membership of our Bowls Club.

**Season 2013/2014** : A Tuesday Pennant side was formed with a mix of experienced and new players. A great deal of experience was gained by the new bowlers in our first season. We were fortunate in that two of our residents were approved BV Coaches and willingly gave of their time to train the new members.

**Season 2014/2015** : One Saturday and two Tuesday teams were entered for the new season as more experienced and inexperienced bowlers arrived in the Resort.

**Season 2015/2016** : Saturday : One team (16 bowlers) and one two bowl triples team (6 bowlers) were entered in the competition. Tuesday: Two teams (12 bowlers each) and one two bowl triples team (6 bowlers) were entered in the competition. We had a very successful season with 4 out of our 5 teams reaching the finals in their sections.

**Results:** Our Saturday team won the Division 7 Metropolitan Section Flag and our 2 bowl triples team reached the section finals. One of our Tuesday teams won their section.

Over the past year our membership has grown, and we have registered two Saturday and three Tuesday Pennant sides for 2016/2017 season