

# BOWLSPEAK

The Monthly newsletter of the Warrnambool Bowls Club Inc

**FEBRUARY EDITION 2026**

Editor: [moloney.lynne.l@gmail.com](mailto:moloney.lynne.l@gmail.com)

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Dear Members,

As we head into the pointy end of the pennant season, it's fantastic to see so many members stepping up and delivering outstanding performances in finals. The commitment, pride, and team spirit on display truly reflect the strength and culture of our club. Keep bringing your best to the greens.

It's also been wonderful to see such strong support on the sidelines. Your encouragement makes a real difference and highlights the camaraderie that sets our club apart. Best of luck to all teams — let's finish the season with pride and great club spirit.

As mentioned in my email earlier this week, we are absolutely thrilled to welcome international representative Chris Carswell as our new Bowls Coordinator. Having represented Scotland at international level, Chris brings elite playing experience, a sharp competitive edge, and a genuine passion for developing bowlers of all levels. His professionalism, knowledge of the game, and fresh energy mark an exciting new chapter for our club.

Members are warmly invited to join us on 19th March at 5 pm for a special meet and greet with Chris, followed by our ever-popular steak night. This will be a fantastic opportunity to connect with him, hear his vision, and be part of the excitement. The evening will also be a proud and historic occasion as we officially introduce our Legends Club, recognising and honouring members who have made an outstanding and lasting contribution to our club's history. Our inaugural inductees will be announced and celebrated on the night. Invitations to qualifying Legends will be sent out shortly, and we look forward to recognising these valued members in style. Steaks will be \$10 each, with our inaugural Legends Club inductees enjoying their steak complimentary on the evening. RSVP is essential so we can cater appropriately — please let us know if you'll be staying for a steak to avoid missing out.

Chris will officially commence his role on 25th May, and we are confident his leadership, experience, and enthusiasm will elevate our club to new heights.

Exciting times ahead — we look forward to seeing you there.

Warm regards,  
**Emma Newton**  
Chairperson



## BOWLS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT



Just a short note to congratulate all of our Members who have played Pennant this year, Tuesday and Saturday, and to see so many teams make finals and Grand Finals.

A special congrats to all the Selectors, who have, behind the scenes, made some hard decisions at the start of the year which enabled players to play at their best, and for the benefit of our Club.

May finals roll-on

**Paul O'Donnell**  
**Bowls Co-ordinator**

## MATCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Another season of Pennant has flown by, with all divisions in Saturday and Midweek featuring in finals. Next Tuesday, divisions 1–3–4 will play off in their Grand Finals.

This season has certainly had its challenges, particularly with the number of sides struggling to field teams. Despite this, all divisions stayed competitive right through to the Grand Final, with all sides giving their best.

Saturday Pennant has been especially pleasing, with all sides committed to the season and now able to enjoy the rewards. We also congratulate those who have committed to Pennant this season and encourage everyone to get out and support the Grand Final teams.

We also acknowledge the strong support of Social Bowls on Tuesday nights, with good numbers attending and the new bowling concept being well accepted.

### Final Placings:

- **1st:** Ian McDonald – Bob Pearce – Alan Ketson | 6 wins +30
- **2nd:** Dale Barclay – Ray Blight – Keith Ketson | 5 wins +31
- **3rd:** Arthur Finch – Peter McFarlane | 3 wins +27
- **4th:** Jon Clegg – Lyn Moloney – Rachael Savory | 3 wins +25
- **5th:** Bill Toney – Alan Sullivan – Colin Jensen | 3 wins +19\*

Congratulations to all teams playing in the finals this week, and best of luck to those competing in the Grand Finals next Tuesday.



**Bill Hunting**  
**W.B.C. Match Committee**



## SOCIAL BOWLS JANUARY/FEBRUARY

23/1	Winners of Winners	L McCosh & J Rundle	+8
	Winners of Losers	A Kelson & R McGillivray	+16
28/1	Winners of Winners	W Tory & S McKendrie	+7
	Winners of Losers	S Vick & P Lumsden	+8
30/1	Winners of Winners	W Tory & C Jensen	+13
	Winners of Losers	J Klein & J Guinan	+11
4/2	Winners of Winners	D Donaldson & P Thorsen	+6
	Winners of Losers	B Hunting & G Johnson	+9
6/2	Winners of Winners	J Guinan & J Klein	+11
	Winners of Losers	B Gleeson & D Barclay	+14
11/2	Winners of Winners	W Tory & G Pianta	+11
	Winners of Losers	P Verdon & J Carroll	+2
13/2	Winners of Winners	K Knowles & B Standaar	+18
	Winners of Losers	I Cross & P Lumsden	+11

## FIVE MINUTES WITH PETER VERDON

By Maree Dalton



### AT A GLANCE

**BORN:** 20/10/1959 in Ararat

**PARENTS:** Jack and Esma

**MARITAL STATUS:** Married

**SIBLINGS:** Kaye Muscat, Lyn

**CHILDREN:** John, Rebecca and Shaun. We have two grandchildren, Edward and Lily

**EDUCATION:** Ararat, then the University of NSW where I got a Diploma in Management

**SPORTING HIGHLIGHT:** Winning the Division 3 Bowls Grand Final with my son Shaun. Also winning the A grade singles two years in a row at Lawn Tennis.

**INTERESTING FACT:** I was in the Air Force for 23 years working as an Administration Officer. When I left the Air Force my rank was Warrant Officer. I then joined the Parliamentary Service working for the Department of the Senate in Canberra.

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PLAYING BOWLS AND WHY DID YOU START?

I've been playing for 10 years. I started when we moved to Warrnambool as bowls is a great way to meet people. My sister also moved here too so I began taking her husband Sam Muscat to bowls with me. I started at Lawn Tennis and played there for 5 years, then I joined this club in 2021.

### DO YOU ENJOY IT? WHY?

I enjoy bowls because it's so competitive but also sociable at the same time.

### WHAT IS YOUR BACKGROUND?

I have travelled all over Australia with the Air Force. We have lived in Adelaide, Wagga Wagga, Melbourne, Sydney, Toowoomba, Brisbane, Papua New Guinea and Canberra. We spent three years in Papua New Guinea where I became fluent in pidgin English.

### HAVE YOU PLAYED SPORT IN THE PAST?

I've played lots of sport including football, soccer, tennis, badminton and darts. I was very competitive in all of these sports.

### WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT BOWLING?

I really do enjoy the game of bowls. It's a fantastic way to meet great people.

## FLY ON THE WALL

Our new format for our monthly triples tournament kicked off on 21<sup>st</sup> January with two games in the morning (am) and two games in the afternoon (pm) after lunch. Do not know what Shane Dalton got up to the night before but he managed to fill out his pm scorecard in the morning and his am scorecard in the afternoon. Wonder if he used to turn up for nightshift when he was rostered for days during his working life? And the new format? A raging success albeit we may need some scorecard tuition. Also heard that the Tim, the Manager, asked Shane to forewarn the Club of upcoming birthdays in order that sufficient Port wine can be ordered in!

Good to see Steve Mitchell about the Club. Turned up for the Club Triples resplendent in his uniform looking forward to a game after putting bowls on the backburner a little to concentrate on his business (Mitch's Preserves, an outstanding product). He was so disappointed when he learned that his so-called mate, Pat Greene, had failed in the simple task of entering the team and he spent the night sitting around looking out of place. At least you got to have a beer Mitch and you found out who you can rely on! Pat Greene's excuse, 'He did not want to play with Mark Bowles.'

Apparently, Lynne Moloney did not fall into the ditch because she was on the wine at lunchtime! Frank Byron was renowned for his shirt fronting ability during his footballing days and it is one skill that has not deserted him!

Witnessed an interesting conversation between Greg Howlett, Pieter De Jong, Ron Cunnington and Bruce Noske. There was a lot of head nodding but I will bet you London to a brick that none of them heard a word that the rest of them said! A good advertisement for hearing aids they are not.

Learned a valuable lesson from Robin Bayne. If you take advantage of a rain delay to ring your better half, put your phone back in your own bowls bag not in a bag belonging to somebody else. It saves you a couple of hours of trauma searching for your phone at the end of play. And, do not take it out on Anne, it was not her fault!

Well done to our participants in the Champions of Champions. Both Mark Bowles and Brenda Hawker bowled extremely well and represented our Club with distinction. Both eventually lost to the overall champions in David Wells (City) and Gayle Swanson (Dunkeld) in what were very high-quality games. Kenny Knowles, representing Koroit, also did extremely well, only losing in the final to David Wells, a very tough competitor on his home green.

Could be a rift developing in the Johnson family. Leigh (City) gave his brother Simon and his Uncle Normie Garner (City) a good rap in an article in the *Standard*. Barely mentioned his father Gary (Muscles) and made absolutely no mention of his other Uncle Peter. Maybe the boy needs some media training on how not to upset people.

Terang has become a bit of a black hole. Heard on the grapevine that Pat Kelly's bowling arm went walk about one week and then the next week Marita Dalton's bowls lifter disappeared. Be careful out there!

Pal White was entertaining everyone on his return from the Tamworth Country Musical Festival relating stories of his prowess at boot scooting, how good it was for your fitness and even demonstrating some of the more risqué moves. Sadly, his wife Mandy turned up and told everyone that the only exercise he got at Tamworth was getting out of his camp chair to grab another beer. Cannot let the truth get in the way of a good story.

Benny Cornick rushed to the assistance of Casey recently when she experienced a flat tyre being that Casey may or may not have had one or two wines and may or may not have been capable of changing it herself. Alas, Casey was not too keen to return the favour when Benny experienced his own flat a week later.

In previous months we have discussed Skippers, Thirds, Seconds and Leads and with the 100 up underway it may be timely to discuss the important role that Markers play. Of course they are there to spot the jack, keep the score and answer any specific questions the bowlers may have about the state of the head. Some bowlers, and we will not name them, ask lots of questions and I mean lots of questions, and keep the Markers on their toes. However, for the benefit of Donny Neal, regardless of how politely you ask, they are not allowed to tell you which hand you should bowl with your next shot! It is also etiquette for the players to offer the Marker a drink at the end of the game, so for the benefit of Trevor Martin, you do not need to rush into the Club and buy your own before they have had a chance to offer you one!



Until next time,  
**Loui**

## AROUND THE CLUB



Marita would like to thank the Knights in Shining Blue Armor who came to her rescue after a slight mishap on the way to bowls

The Real Deal motivating players with a stirring, albeit slightly high-pitched, rendition of 'Don't Stop Believing' complete with dance moves.



Bowlesy relying on AI to attract attention.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

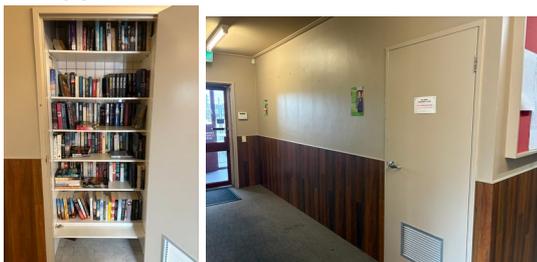
to the following members who will be celebrating their birthdays in the month March:



Kevin	Boyd	27-Mar-1941
Alan	Campbell	26-Mar-1944
Anne	Chapman	29-Mar-1954
Justin	Cross	04-Mar-2004
Ian	Dalton	29-Mar-1959
Barbara	Hill	24-Mar-1958
Greg	Howlett	12-Mar-1955
Jacques	JansenVanVuuren	13-Mar-1981
Ken	Johnson	20-Mar-1953
Maurice	Kelly	08-Mar-1951
Glen	Mcnaughton	31-Mar-1960
Gerard	Okeefe	31-Mar-1954
Jane	Rea	24-Mar-1940
Michael	Steel	11-Mar-1979
William	Tory	20-Mar-1952
Nicholas	White	16-Mar-1983
Anderson	Robert	09-Mar-1951



- REMEMBER WE HAVE A LIBRARY AT THE CLUB
- NEW BOOKS UPDATED REGULARY.
- COME AND BROWSE
- LIBRARY INSIDE THE OLD WASHING MACHINE ROOM



**QUBE**

# 2026 AUTUMN CLASSIC

*Pairs & Fours Tournament*

*With a total prize pool of \$30,000, this event promises intense competition, top-tier bowling, and a fantastic atmosphere for players and spectators alike.*



**TUESDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

**SUNDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**



**PAIRS TEAM ENTRY: \$240**

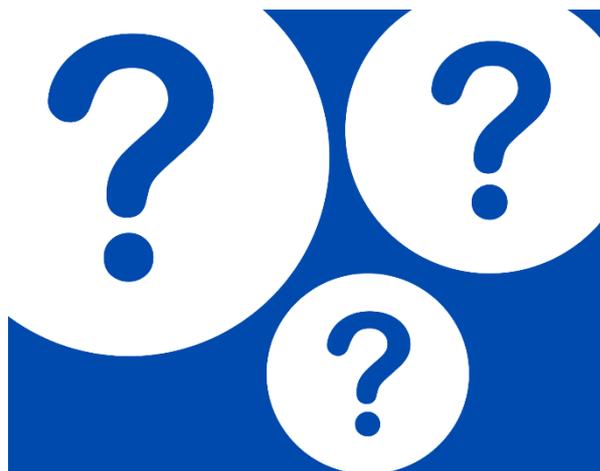
**FOURS TEAM ENTRY: \$480**



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warrnamboolbowls.com.au



GATHER THE GANG AND GET YOUR TRIVIA ON!!!!

## SUNDAY ARVO TRIVIA @ THE WBC

Form a group of 5 and get ready to battle it out.

**EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON**

Team Registration from 2:00PM

Online Registration Available

Trivia Starts at 2:30 PM

Hosted by Trivia Master Dave



## What's On at the WBC

**TUESDAY**

**Kid's Eat Free**

Kid's eat free with any Main meal purchased  
Available for lunch & dinner.



Conditions apply, see staff for more info.



**Parma Day**

**WEDNESDAY**

\$27 Parma & Schooner for lunch or dinner.  
Five different Parma's available served with  
chips & salad.

Beverage free option available for only \$24

**THURSDAY**

**Steak Night**

\$29 300 gram Porterhouse Steak & beverage  
available for dinner. Served with chips, salad &  
your choice of sauce.



Beverage free option available for only \$26



**Raffle Night**

**FRIDAY**

Our Friday Night Raffle & Member's Draw every  
week from 5:00 PM. 20+ prizes. Tickets start at  
\$2.00 & the raffle starts at 6:00 PM.

**SATURDAY**

**Burger Day**

\$24 Burger & Beverage available for lunch or  
dinner. Four different Burgers available served  
with chips.

Beverage free option available for only \$21



**Sunday Roast**

**SUNDAY**

\$29 Two course roast with dessert. With a  
rotating selection of roast & dessert options.  
Available for lunch & dinner.

Sign up for a WBC Social Member today for only \$10