

# BOWLSPEAK



June Edition 2026

The Monthly Newsletter of the Warrnambool Bowls Club Inc



Congrats again to Casey and Ben, teaming up with Shae and Cal to be runners-up in the Mixed Fours at Moama!



# Chairperson's Report

with Emma Newton

Dear Members,

You may not have seen much of me around the club over the past month, as I spent some time volunteering at the Sunflower Festival in Kalbar before undergoing surgery and taking some time to recover. While I've been away from the club, there has certainly been no shortage of activity behind the scenes as we continue to work on our 7 year strategy and ways to grow the club.

It's hard to believe how quickly the year is flying by, and with that comes another important milestone for our club—the AGM. There is plenty for members to consider this year, including Board nominations and the exciting prospect of welcoming new Life Members, with four deserving club members nominated for this prestigious honour.

The Bowls Committee has also recently held its AGM, rounding out what has been a highly successful year for bowls at the club. It has been a genuine team effort across all levels, with strong participation, great spirit, and continued growth both on and off the greens. Sincere thanks go to all committee members—both outgoing and continuing—for their commitment and hard work throughout the year.

In particular, we extend our deepest appreciation to outgoing Bowls President Shane Dalton. Shane has done an outstanding job leading the bowls program and has left a strong and well-organised foundation for the incoming leadership. His dedication, time, and steady guidance have made a significant difference to the club, and he should be very proud of what has been achieved during his tenure. We thank him sincerely for his service and commitment.

We now look forward to welcoming Ray McGillivray as the new Bowls President. Ray steps into the role with a great platform already in place, thanks to the work of Shane and the committee, and we are confident he will continue to build on the strong momentum moving forward.

This month also marks the end of an era as our much-loved Bowls Coordinator, Paul O'Donnell, officially steps back into retirement. For many years, Paul has been the steady hand at the helm, dedicating countless hours to the club and its members. His passion for bowls, commitment to our players, and tireless efforts behind the scenes have helped guide the club through countless tournaments, successes, and periods of growth. His contribution simply cannot be measured in wins and trophies alone—it is reflected in the strong, welcoming bowls community we enjoy today.



# Chairperson's Report

with Emma Newton

While Paul will be greatly missed in his official role, we're delighted that he won't be far away. He'll still be out on the greens, supporting players and sharing his love of the game as a valued member of our club family.

To celebrate Paul's incredible contribution, I encourage everyone to mark Saturday, July 5 at 2.00pm in their calendars and join us at the Flying Horse as we thank him for everything he has done for our club.

As one chapter closes, another begins. We are excited to welcome Ben Cornick into the Bowls Coordinator role. Ben brings fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and a strong vision for the future. With exciting opportunities ahead—including plans to purchase our greens and explore roofing options—there is plenty to look forward to. Ben's energy and commitment will help build on the strong foundation already in place, and I know you'll join me in giving him a warm welcome as he steps into this important role.

We also acknowledge and wish the very best of luck to our bowlers currently competing at the Australian Open on the Gold Coast. It is fantastic to see our club represented on the national stage, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts and achievements so far. At the same time, we extend our best wishes to all members preparing to travel to Darwin for the Bowls Carnival in July—we look forward to hearing about your experiences and celebrating your successes when you return.

Although the club didn't take home any awards at this year's Frontier Hospitality Awards, our team remains as motivated as ever and is already focused on coming back bigger, better, and stronger.

There is also plenty happening around the club socially. Our Friday night raffles continue to grow in popularity, with the Members Draw now sitting at an impressive \$5,000 jackpot and still waiting for a lucky winner. With the jackpot still to go off the prize for the next jackpot continues to build as well, making Friday nights a fantastic reason to visit the club. Meanwhile, our free Sunday Trivia sessions, hosted by 3YB's own Dave Drinkall, continue to attract great crowds and provide a fun way to round out the weekend.

Stay warm and look after yourselves.

Emma Newton  
Chairperson



# Club Sponsors

Support the amazing business that support our Club



the fresh flower market  
warrnambool





# Manager's Update

with Tim Smithyman

Dear WBC Members,

Hi Members,

It was great to get away with the family for a bit of R&R in Japan. We had an amazing time, although it was certainly hard to say goodbye and return home to this freezing Warrnambool weather. I think my holiday clothes were packed away a little too quickly! A big thank you to Lisa and the entire team for stepping up and keeping everything running smoothly while I was away. It is always reassuring to know the Club is in such capable hands.

I would also like to welcome our new Bowls Coordinator, Ben Cornick, to the Warrnambool Bowls Club team. Ben has hit the ground running, and I am sure many of our bowling members will get to know him over the coming weeks.

While I was away, the team continued to work hard. Mother's Day was another successful day at the Club, and our first comedy night also went extremely well. It was great to see something a little different being enjoyed by members and guests, and we will continue looking at new entertainment options for the Club.

The team has also been busy launching our new bistro menu, which is now available for members and guests to enjoy. We also have some new offers coming soon, including options being developed for our bowling members, along with a few changes to our themed nights. Keep an eye out for more information over the coming weeks.

Unfortunately, we missed out on bringing home the chocolates at the Frontier Hospitality Awards Gala. However, being selected as a finalist for both Best Bistro and Best Venue was still a fantastic achievement and something our entire team should be proud of.

It was also a great opportunity to catch up with managers from other venues and discuss some of the challenges currently facing the hospitality industry. It was reassuring to hear that many venues are dealing with similar issues, and it was valuable to share ideas about what is working, what is not working and how venues across the Frontier network and wider industry are responding.

Congratulations to the team at the North Ballarat Football Club on their success. They now have a new rival... LOL, just kidding. We will simply have to come back bigger and better next year!



# Manager's Update

with Tim Smithyman

This year's Annual General Meeting is almost upon us, and it is fantastic to see a healthy number of nominees for positions on the Board of Management.

Voting information will be sent to eligible members shortly, so please make sure your contact and postal details held by the Club are correct. These can be checked and updated with our bar team. As a reminder, the 2026 Warrnambool Bowls Club Annual General Meeting will be held in the Club's bistro area on Sunday, 28 June 2026 from 1:00 PM.

JAGR will also be returning to the Club for another great night of live music on Saturday, 25 July. This is a free event and is always a fantastic night out, so make sure you put the date in your calendar and bring a few friends along.

Sunday Trivia is still running each Sunday afternoon at the Club. Dave puts on a very entertaining afternoon, and there are some great prizes on offer for the teams.

If you haven't tried it yet, I highly recommend getting a team together and joining in. You don't need to be a trivia expert, although having one on your team certainly doesn't hurt! Trivia kicks off each Sunday from 2.30 pm and best of all, its FREE

From an industry perspective, venues like ours continue to face plenty of challenges. The cost of living is having an impact on households, while businesses are also managing increasing costs across food, beverages, wages, insurance, utilities and general operations. We understand that everyone is watching what they spend, so our focus will remain on providing good value, quality meals, friendly service and affordable entertainment for our members and guests.

Supporting your Club by enjoying a meal, attending an event, having a drink with friends or participating in bowls makes a genuine difference. We appreciate every visit and never take the continued support of our members and local community for granted.

That's all from me for this month. I am looking forward to hitting the ground running again and trialling a few new ideas. Watch this space!

See you around the Club.

Tim Smithyman  
General Manager





# Social Bowls Results

For Wednesday & Friday Bowls for the month of April & May

Date		Players	Score
<b>1st April 2026</b>	Winners of Winners	B Hunting & S Vick	+6
	Winners of Losers	K Knowles & B Standaar	+7
<b>17<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b>	Winners of Winners	G Johnson & G Sharpe	+13
	Winners of Losers	K Boyd & B Standaar	+11
<b>22nd April 2026</b>	Winners of Winners	B Crowe & B Standaar	+8
	Winners of Losers	P Verdon & M Kelly	+3
<b>24th April 2026</b>	Winners of Winners	G McNaughton & I Swain	+33
	Winners of Losers	B Tory & C Jensen	+25
<b>1st May 2026</b>	Winners of Winners	G Johnson & G Sharpe	+22
	Winners of Losers	S Tozar & T Read	+12



# Social Bowls Results

For Wednesday & Friday Bowls for the month of April & May

Date		Players	Score
<b>8th May 2026</b>	Winners of Winners	J Rundle & L McCosh	+10
	Winners of Losers	G Jewell & P Watson	+11
<b>13th May 2026</b>	Winners of Winners	G Gibson & D Fitzgibbon	+8
	Winners of Losers	G Johnson & S Selman	+12
<b>15th May 2026</b>	Winners of Winners	J Rundle & L McCosh	+14
	Winners of Losers	I Cross & P Lumsden	+13
<b>20th May 2026</b>	Winners of Winners	B Johnson & D Barclay	+12
	Winners of Losers	K Johnson & K Johnson	+15
<b>27th May 2026</b>	Winners of Winners	R Hill & J Carroll	+10
	Winners of Losers	D Barclay & L McLaren	+16
<b>27th May 2026</b>	Winners of Winners	S Verdon & P Verdon	+10
	Winners of Losers	I Swayne & B Westcombe	+21



# 10 Mintues with Ben

By Lynne Moloney

## How long have you been bowling and how old were you when you started?

This will be season 27 and I have been bowling since I was 12 years old. I started at that age because dad finished playing cricket and started playing bowls which meant I was hanging around bowls clubs Saturday afternoons and evenings. If I wasn't at the pool table I would grab a set of bowls and go out and start having a roll.

## Are you any good at pool?

Not as good as the Real Deal.

## Did you go through a junior program?

Yes, Tassie had a brilliant junior program with lots of juniors. The region-based and state-based programs were unreal – the players and coaches down there were really good. I played representative bowls and state-wide challenges. I had a year off bowls when I was 18 and went and played cricket and then got back into bowls after that. I went and played one or two seasons with dad which was nice and then moved onto a different premier league club.

## Where did you grow up in Tasmania?

I grew up in Spreyton, five minutes out of Devonport. Mum and dad had an apple orchard which they eventually sold up and they have moved to the central highlands. As an only child I was probably spoilt a bit growing up.

## Why did you come to Warrnambool?

I came for work as a locksmith – I had the choice between Darwin and Warrnambool and at the time Darwin was probably a bit too far away. When I first arrived, I tried out a couple of other clubs but was told that I would probably fit best at the Warrnambool Bowls Club. I initially ran into Alan Fary who encouraged me to sign up. That was about 13 years ago.

### What are some of your bowling highlights?

Premierships are always good and I have been lucky to be a part of the last couple at Warrnambool BC. I have most club championships, but never singles. Being a part of the original VBL franchise will always hold a special place in my heart and I've been lucky to play in all of them so far – this will be our fifth year coming up. Some of my very good memories are winning the Autumn Classic pairs with Tristan McArthur and then winning it a couple of years later with Cal Indeberg. I won the Tasmanian under 25 singles, but I would rather win something with my mates. I've represented the region around eight times - we had a very competitive year a couple of years ago and hopefully we can get back to that at some point.

### What are some of the things that you hope to achieve in your new role as Bowls Coordinator?

I probably just want to grow on what Pod has already built, he has set a great foundation. We will implement the new pairs tournament in January to make a big week of that – hopefully get some big names down here.

### What is the best thing about the Warrnambool BC?

The people.

### Who is funnier, you or Pod?

Me.





# Fly On The Wall

with Loui The Fly

Heard on the grapevine that our bowlers who ventured away on the RSL trip to Echuca had a great time with just a couple of hiccups. The catering efforts of the Echuca Bowls Club copped a little bit of criticism. Some of our blokes thought that a third of a dim-sim and one small sausage roll each for afternoon tea was not quite enough to fill your belly. If you look at the size of their bellies you will understand.

The technology available up on the river also came into question. Kelvin Lilley's attempt to watch his beloved Hawks was interrupted by the television unexplainedly turning on and off, switching channels, going mute etc. You get the drift. I am told Kelvin was less than impressed. Just possibly the remote control fell into the wrong hands and underhand things were at play! Be careful who your friends are Kelvin!

Kelvin had the unusual occurrence of having a Friday off a week or so later and decided to play social bowls. As Kelvin would do, he came down to the Club for a practice the night before and asked Billy Hunting which way we bowl on Fridays to which Billy promptly replied East/West. Kelvin had a good two-hour practice session going East/West and was confident he had nailed the line. You guessed it; Friday came along and we bowled North/South. Be careful who your friends are Kelvin!

On the subject of social bowls, I noticed the Match Committee were starting to get a bit tough on fines. Fining players for going down to the head for a look during social games, putting your name down twice on the list of players etc. Then it clicked; Barry Gleeson hadn't bowled a wrong bias for three weeks and they needed to make sure the fines money kept accumulating for our nominated charity.

I do not normally comment on Club events in this column, but with Bill and Ben the flowerpot men winning the Club Pairs again this year for the fourth time, could I suggest quietly that somebody bring along some weedkiller next year. Seeing that I have broken my rule about not commenting on Club events, it was good to see Lyndal Jansen van Buuren donning the uniform to participate in the Club Mixed Pairs. Big Jacques was like a little lamb. Wonder who wears the pants in that family?

Peter Verdon was doing the right thing. Put his phone and car keys in his bowls bag whilst playing. Alas, when he finally decided to leave the Club after a few post-game bevies, his bowls bag was safely ensconced in the locked locker room. Pity his key to the locker room is on his phone which was still safely stored in the bowls bag, as were the car keys. It is a long walk home to North Warrnambool! Maybe if he had left a little earlier there would have still been someone around to give him access to the locker room. Whilst I am on the subject of the Verdon family, I note there has been a changing of the guard with Sean skipping on a Friday. That may be why we have not heard any disparaging remarks about the Dirty Stinking Rotten Leaders' Club from the old man of late!

The rumour about Benny Cornick landing the gig as the Bowls Coordinator turned out to be true, but I have it on good authority that the other rumour that it will be mandatory for your pre-pennant routine next year to include turning up to the Club in multi coloured lairy disco shorts, matched with designer thongs, while grasping a stubby in one hand, will not be enforced. Good luck Benny! Warning Will Robinson, his new appointment also makes him Chairman of Selectors!

Quote from Bill Hunting. 'I have started using lipstick'. I do not know what colour he is using, but really what happens in Lake Fyans should stay in Lake Fyans Billy! Whilst we are talking about Billy, seems Heather was a bit concerned with the cold weather coming on that he may stop volunteering to do her school crossings in the morning. No flies on Heather; she recently presented Billy with some thermal underwear. No excuses now Billy!

Quote from Trevor Martin. 'I went to the races Tuesday and Thursday but decided to give the Friday a miss'. Good thing that Trevor, you would have been really lonely out there with only the clean up crew to keep you company and no beer tent in operation. Maybe he was thinking of collecting empty cans for to 10c refund? Tip: Keep saying stupid things, you will keep getting a mention in this column.

We were informed courtesy of the Standard that some 'nuffy' parked their car on Clyde Crescent without putting it in gear or engaging the handbrake, causing the car to roll across the road and smash into the neighbours' fence. Police, paramedics, the whole shebang! Is it mere coincidence that I hear Barb Pulling has been banned from parking in the rear carpark at the Club because it is on a slope?

I hear a certain member of the Board struggled gaining access to the Club. The bowlers' entrance was locked, no access through the carpark backdoor due to a function in progress, gate from the greens up to the beer garden area, locked; he was pretty dirty after failing to gain entry after three tries and, was let us say, unhappy with the staff for some reason. In all honesty, it was a pity he did not try the front door. As a welcoming Club, our front door is always open!

Big hearted Digger Mahoney decided he would take Julie out to dinner to celebrate her recent birthday. I know what you are thinking, fine dining like Salt, Lot 17. Lost Cat or even Clovelly. No, Digger's idea of a romantic night out is apparently Kermond's. At least she was allowed to have bacon and tomato on her burger! Amusing that we saw some outstanding photographs of our very worthy competitors at the Victorian Over 60s Carnival in Barham but the only photograph of Digger was him in the background feeding his face.

Although I was unable to make it to the Bowls Section AGM it did get back to be that it went off very well. The reports from the outgoing and incoming Presidents were well received as were the other reports presented on the night. Only glitch throughout the night was the scrutineers being unable to tally votes. Pat Greene, you had one job on the night and managed to stuff it up. I guess you need to have your accountant with you when it comes to anything to do with numbers! That being said, he knows exactly how much a beer costs and when it is somebody else's shout!

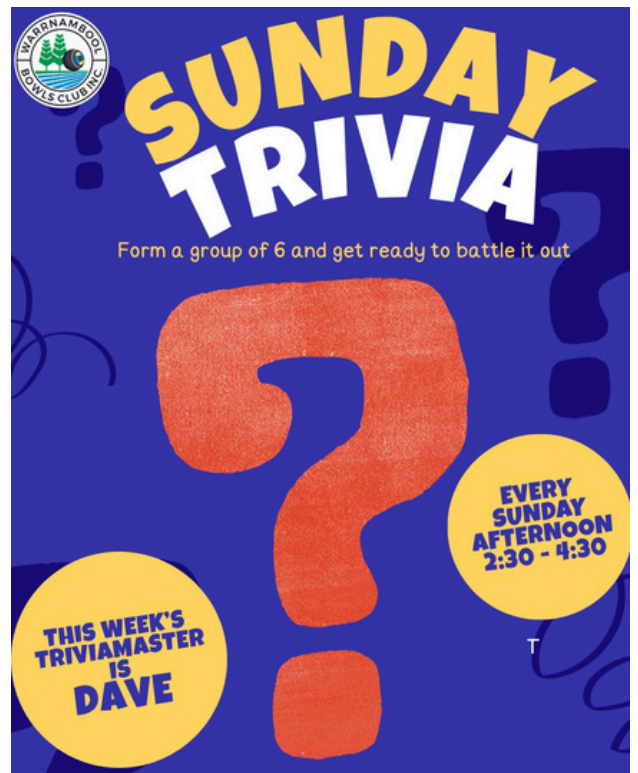
Be alert but not alarmed. Despite Rattie Holder talking some absolute shit sometimes (excuse my language but it is necessary on this occasion for context), historically, there has been no reported transmission of hantavirus in Warrnambool.

Congratulations to Shane Dalton, our outgoing President on an outstanding tenure in the position. Hopefully we will no longer have the Marita 'Shaaayne' call echoing across the greens although it has been memorable. Out incoming President of course will now have to relinquish his position of President of the Dirty Stinking Rotten Leader's Club, and maybe as mentioned earlier in this column Peter Verdon may be a nominee. I did hear however that new President Ray may have been referred to the Grievance Officer on his first night in office. Something about him wanting to see everybody in the Northern Territory, as vague as that may seem.

I could not let the month of May go by without wishing all the amazing Mothers at the Club a very happy Mothers' Day. We could not do without you. I hope you all got your household chores done by Saturday night in order that you could have a very relaxing day on the Sunday

Be careful out there!

Loui.



NEW YEARS  
BOWLS  
BONANZA  
2027

SUNDAY JANUARY 3TH TILL  
WEDNESDAY 6TH 2027

2027 X SHB +

Business & Wealth Advisers



PRELUDE SINGLES

\$10,000 LAWN BOWLS TOURNAMENT

2027



Aussie  
Broadband +



NEW YEARS TRIPLES

\$20,000 LAWN BOWLS TOURNAMENT

2027  
+ LW



Luke Williams  
real estate

3 Bowl Pairs

\$10,000 Lawn Bowls Tournament

For details more details contact our Bowls Co-Ordinator, Ben Cornick,  
via the Club or at [bowlsco@warrnamboolbowls.com.au](mailto:bowlsco@warrnamboolbowls.com.au)



Thank you  
**POD!**

YOUR LEADERSHIP,  
YOUR DEDICATION,  
YOUR PASSION.  
OUR CLUB.



*Celebrating*  
THE RETIREMENT OF

# PAUL 'POD' O'DONNELL

**BOWLS COORDINATOR**  
WARRNAMBOOL BOWLS CLUB



*Join us as we celebrate an incredible man  
and his outstanding contribution to our club and the game we love.*

Paul 'Pod' O'Donnell has made an enormous contribution to the Warrnambool Bowls Club. His dedication, commitment and passion for bowls have inspired players, strengthened our club and created countless memories.

This is our opportunity to come together, share stories, enjoy a few laughs and thank POD for his years of service.

*All members, friends and  
supporters are welcome!*



**DATE:**

**SUNDAY, 5 JULY 2026**



**TIME:**

**2:00PM - 5:00PM**



**VENUE:**

**UPSTAIRS FUNCTION ROOM,  
FLYING HORSE BAR & BREWERY**  
10691 PRINCES HWY, WARRNAMBOOL VIC 3280

*Great Mate. Great Leader.* **LEGEND.** 



**FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED CLOSER TO THE EVENT.**

*For now, please mark the date in your calendar!*

*We look forward  
to seeing you there!*

# Happy Birthday

TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF JUNE



Greg	Baxter	26th June
Jennifer	Blandthorn	29th June
John	Bowles	26th June
Jon	Clegg	26th June
Erle	Dakin	14th June
Simon	Johnson	29th June
Graham	Kelty	26th June
Stephen	Lamborn	29th June
David	Nicolson	21st June
Barbara	Pulling	10th June
Rob	Standaar	17th June
Anne-marie	Williams	28th June
Diane	Mugavin	25th June