



BOWLSPEAK

July Edition 2026

The Monthly Newsletter of the Warrnambool Bowls Club Inc



**Happy Retirement to our
outgoing Bowls
Coordinator
Paul O'Donnell**

Major Sponsors for July 2026





Chairperson's Report

with Emma Newton

Dear Members,

June has been another busy month at Warrnambool Bowls Club, with plenty happening both on and off the greens.

Our Annual General Meeting was well attended, and it was wonderful to see so many members taking an active interest in the future of our club. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the awarding of Life Membership to Brenda Hawker. Life Membership is one of the highest honours our club can bestow, recognising long-standing dedication and outstanding service to Warrnambool Bowls Club. Brenda has been part of the fabric of our club for many years and continues to lead by example as an active, competitive and highly respected bowler. Her sportsmanship, commitment and genuine love of the game make her an inspiration to members of all ages. Congratulations, Brenda, on this thoroughly deserved honour.

The AGM also saw the election of four Board positions. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who took the time to vote and for the confidence shown by re-electing me to the Board and as Chairperson. It is a privilege to continue serving our members and I look forward to working with the Board in the year ahead.

Congratulations to Mark Bowles and Don Wilson on their re-election to the Board, and a warm welcome to Gary Arnott, who joins the Board for the first time. Mark will continue in his role as Treasurer, while Daryl Andrew continues as Vice Chairperson. I look forward to working alongside them as we continue to strengthen and grow our club.

June also marked the end of an era as Pod officially wrapped up 22 years of service at the club and began a well-earned retirement. Thankfully, he's not going far—we're sure he will still be a familiar face around the greens and enjoying a bowls game and a bevy with friends. We celebrated this milestone with a wonderful retirement party at the Flying Horse, who were fabulous hosts in so many ways. We look forward to returning the favour by welcoming them to our club in the near future. A heartfelt thank you to Luke Williams, Ben Cornick and Tim Smithyman for helping me make the celebration such a special occasion. As Pod heads off on his bowls trip to Darwin, we wish him and all of our members travelling north safe travels, good bowling and plenty of great memories.

The June school holidays brought plenty of families through the club and, while the weather wasn't kind to our greens, it was fantastic to see our facilities being enjoyed by so many. Seeing families and visitors making the most of what our club has to offer is a great reminder that Warrnambool Bowls Club is much more than a sporting venue—it is a welcoming place for our whole community.

As we look ahead, our focus remains on continuing to grow Warrnambool Bowls Club as an inclusive, welcoming and vibrant place for everyone in our community. Whether you're a long-time member, a social visitor or someone discovering bowls for the first time, we want our club to be a place where everyone feels welcome. It is also an exciting time as we work with our new Bowls Coordinator, Ben Cornick. Ben has already brought enthusiasm and fresh ideas to the role, and I am looking forward to seeing how our bowls program continues to develop under his guidance.

Stay warm and keep the good times rolling

Emma Newton
Chairperson

Vale – Max McKenzie



It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of long-standing Warrnambool Bowls Club member Max McKenzie, who passed away on 11 July 2026, aged 89 years.

Max was a highly respected and valued member of our club for many years. He was known for his friendly nature, sportsmanship and the genuine camaraderie he shared with fellow members.

His contribution to the Warrnambool Bowls Club extended well beyond the bowling green, helping shape the welcoming and supportive culture that our club is proud of today.

Max's presence will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

On behalf of the Board of Management, members and staff, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends during this difficult time.

Max's legacy will live on through the friendships he built and the lasting impact he made on our club.

Vale, Max. Thank you for your friendship, your commitment and your contribution to the Warrnambool Bowls Club. You will be fondly remembered.



Club Sponsors

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Manager's Update

with Tim Smithyman

Hi WBC Members,

Firstly, a big thank you to all members who attended this year's AGM. It was great to see a strong turnout and plenty of interest in the future of the Club.

A warm welcome also goes to Gary Arnott, who has joined the Board of Management, and a huge congratulations to Brenda Hawker, who was nominated as our Club's latest Life Member. A wonderful recognition and very well deserved.

The school holidays have also been a big success, with our Beyblade X Day and Kids Bowls Day both going really well. It was fantastic to see so many kids and families enjoying the Club and making the most of these fun events.

Our new Bistro menu has now been rolled out, so make sure you pop in and check out what Sam and the team have been working on. There are some great new options on there, and plenty of reasons to book in for a meal.

On the entertainment front, we have a cracking line-up coming up over the next few months. JAGR will be playing at the Club on Saturday 25 July, and we also have some great monthly music events ahead with McFuzz, The Roundabouts, Oz Quo and Two Dudes. Our Friday Morning Music also returns this month on Friday 17 July from 10:30am, so we look forward to seeing plenty of familiar faces back in for that.

On the bar side of things, we are running a little winter special with Hahn Super Dry full-strength schooners for just \$7.50 from July through until the end of September. Not a bad excuse to call in for a cold one!

A reminder that membership renewals are now due, and renewal letters have been sent out. Thank you in advance to everyone getting those sorted nice and early.

There is plenty happening around the place, and more things in the works, so keep an eye out for updates on our social media and in Bowlspeak.

Till next month, stay warm and I'll see you around the Club

Cheers,
Tim

WANT TO TRY BOWLS?



EGG & BACON BOWLS

*Good food.
Good company.
Great way to
start Sunday!*



**EVERY SUNDAY MORNING
STARTING
SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST
AT 10:00AM**



BOWLS SUPPLIED

Experienced bowlers
to help out



BREKKY

@ 10:00AM



BOWLS

**@ 10:30AM
TILL 12:00PM**



FORMAT

**DECIDED BEFORE
PLAY COMMENCES**

COST

\$10

**INCLUDES
EGG & BACON ROLL
AND BOWLS**



**ENTRIES TO BE IN BY
6:00PM EVERY FRIDAY!**



PHONE 5561 4586



Contact

BOWLS COORDINATOR - BEN CORNICK

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0400 023 774

Everyone welcome — bring a mate!



Bowl's Co Report

with Ben Cornick

It's been another busy few weeks at the club, and it's great to see so much happening both on and off the greens.

Our School Holiday Bowls Program was a fantastic success, with plenty of local kids coming along to give bowls a try. I'd like to sincerely thank all of our volunteers who gave up their time to help. Whether you were coaching, setting up, or simply making everyone feel welcome, your support made the day possible. These programs are a great way to introduce new people to our club and showcase what a welcoming place the Warrnambool Bowls Club is.

There has also been plenty of discussion surrounding the proposed Regional Premier League. Following meetings with the Region and surrounding playing areas, it's been agreed that the competition will now target a 2027/28 start. While many were excited about getting underway sooner, taking the extra time will allow the competition to be properly planned and give all clubs the opportunity to prepare for what should become a fantastic addition to our bowls calendar.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Brenda Hawker on becoming a life member of the WBC. Meeting all of the criteria and receiving the support from the member base is something many strive towards and is a mighty achievement. Well done Brenda!

It was wonderful to see such a fantastic turnout for Pod's retirement celebration. The room was full of great stories, plenty of laughs, and a lot of appreciation for everything Pod has contributed to our club over the years. A big thank you to everyone who attended and to those who helped organise such a fitting celebration.

Behind the scenes, planning for the upcoming season continues. Work is progressing on our competition calendar, events, and a number of exciting projects that will continue to strengthen our club both on and off the greens. There is certainly plenty to look forward to over the coming months.

Finally, thank you to everyone who continues to volunteer, support club events, and help create such a positive atmosphere around the club. It's great to see so many members getting involved, and I'm excited about what lies ahead.

See you around the club.

Go Bulls 🟡💙

Ben Cornick
Bowls Coordinator



President's Report

with Ray McGillivray

Firstly I would like to say how proud and optimistic I am in taking on the Presidency for the next year.

With exciting times ahead we are very fortunate our Committee has stayed the same as the previous year with only some roles changed internally.

I would really like to thank Shane Dalton for his fantastic efforts as President over the last 2 years. He only has the club at heart, at that shows with again remaining as a committee member. Well done Mate, the Club was very successful under your reign.

A huge Congratulations and Thank You to Pod for all your help and guidance from all our Bowlers over a very lustrous and successful career as a Top Line Bowler and Bowls Coordinator. We wish only the best for you and Kaz in retirement and look forward to catching up at the club.

A huge welcome to our new Bowls Coordinator in Ben Cornick who needs no introduction in his bowling achievements and commitment to our club.

Ben is a massive cog to our success on and off the greens and have no doubt this success will continue in his new role. Good Luck Mate.

To our New Match Committee, we look forward to working with you over the next year, and would like to thank all those that have given up their time to help out in the past.

To Emma and the Board we wish you nothing but ongoing success and look forward to working with you over the next year and can't wait for our Roof.

With the past crap weather our greens have taken a bit of a hammering. We have already had a very well supported working bee tidying up a couple of weeks ago. Another one to be scheduled soon to clean up the tiles. Just before everyone escapes on holidays.

The club has purchased a new vacuum cleaner to hopefully make that job a lot easier. Mick Edwards will guide us through the process of how to operate.

Bill Tory has offered his valued services on the greens once again. Your work certainly doesn't go unnoticed we appreciate your help.

As President I wish all at Our Club nothing but Success for season 26/27.

By sticking fast together, there is only Success to be achieved.

Cheers

Ray



Match Committee News

with Bill Hunting

The winter months have arrived, with numbers still encouraging. The new formats for Wednesday social bowls—2x4x2 three-bowl pairs and two-bowl pairs—have been well received, with quite a few visitors coming to play each week.

Monthly two-bowl triples will commence on 16 September, using the same format of four games—two in the morning, followed by lunch, and two in the afternoon. The prizemoney will be \$1,000, paying down to 5th place, plus prizes for the two highest winning scores (morning and afternoon).

Quite a few bowlers have headed north for their annual pilgrimage to warmer weather.

Ben Cornick, our new Bowls Coordinator, is fitting into his new role well, with some great new innovations for the club, such as new formats for social bowls and excellent flyers for our upcoming tournaments. I am sure he has plenty more planned for the future of the club.

Well, rug up for the next few months and enjoy your bowls.

Bill Hunting
Match Committee



BOWLSEY'S PET SHARK "MICK" SWIMMING A FEW LAPS



ASHLEY ENSURING THE BOWLING GREENS ARE SEAWEED FREE!



Social Bowls Results

For Wednesday & Friday Bowls for the month of June & July

Date		Players	Score
3rd June 2026	Winners of Winners	Cancelled we weather	
	Winners of Losers	Cancelled we weather	
5th June 2026	Winners of Winners	Bill Hunting & Ray McGillivray	+15
	Winners of Losers	Dale Barclay & Baz Gleeson	+7
10th June 2026	Winners of Winners	Len McCosh & Kathleen Brockett	+8
	Winners of Losers	Sean Verdon & ken Johnson	+21
12th June 2026	Winners of Winners	Ivan Cross & Peter Lumsden	+11
	Winners of Losers	Jack Murnane & Freedom	+18
17th June 2026	Winners of Winners	Steve Selman & Peter Thorsen	+7
	Winners of Losers	Roger Hill & Sean Verdon	+15

Major Sponsors for July 2026





Social Bowls Results

For Wednesday & Friday Bowls for the month of June & July

Date		Players	Score
19th June 2026	Winners of Winners	Ivan Cross & Peter Lumsden	+7
	Winners of Losers	Polly Rabl & Mark Savage	+9
24th June 2026	Winners of Winners	Robert Bell & Barb Hill	+4
	Winners of Losers	Jeff Woolley & Peter Lumsden	+19
26th June 2026	Winners of Winners	Roger Hill & Barb Hill	+11
	Winners of Losers	Ray McGillivray & Peter Watson	+8
1st July 2026	Winners of Winners	Wayne Cooper & Peter DeJong	+9
	Winners of Losers	Colin Jensen & Roger Hill	+8
3rd July 2026	Winners of Winners	Cancelled wet weather	
	Winners of Losers	Cancelled wet weather	
8th July 2026	Winners of Winners	Peter Verdon & Barb Hill	+11
	Winners of Losers	Bill Tory & Sean Verdon	+13



5 Mintues with Brenda

By Maree Dalton

First of all, congratulations on becoming a Life Member of the Warrnambool Bowls Club. What does this Award mean to you?

This award means a lot to me, I love this club. To be awarded a life membership, by the members, means so much, I will carry this award with a lot of pride.

AT A GLANCE

BORN: 27.07.1950

PARENTS: Oscar and Isabel Price (Heywood Vic)

MARITAL STATUS: Married in 1971 to Philip.

SIBLINGS: I have an older brother Garry and a twin brother Bruce (Smokey)

CHILDREN: I have two girls, Chelsea Carter and Trudy Olszewski. Our grand children are Mia and Jack Carter and Oskar and Tex Olszewski.

EDUCATION: Heywood High School

SPORTING HIGHLIGHT:

I have been the A grade Singles Champion at our Club 6 times.

I have played in Regional Teams over 4 years, competing in Regional Championships. One year when I played in both the pairs and triples and we went on to represent the State in both.

I have played in 5-6 successful Tuesday Pennant wins.

I was runner-up in the singles in the Western District in 2018-2019 and that same year won the mixed pairs with Kevin Boyd in the Western District.

I played in a winning soft ball premierships. I also played netball and badminton, winning club championships along the way.

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

I HAVE BEEN PLAYING BOWLS FOR 25 YEARS. PHILIP STARTED BEFORE ME, I THOUGHT I WAS TOO YOUNG TO PLAY BOWLS. THEN I THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE A GO AND THAT WAS IT, I WAS HOOKED. I PRACTISED ALMOST EVERY DAY.

DO YOU ENJOY IT? WHY?

I LOVE THE FRIENDSHIPS THAT COME WITH PLAYING BOWLS I HAVE BEEN TO A LOT OF PLACES PLAYING BOWLS, INCLUDING QUEENSLAND, WHERE I PLAYED WITH MANY DIFFERENT CLUBS. LOTS OF FRIENDSHIPS ARE FORMED, BOTH ON AND OFF THE GREENS.

WHAT IS YOUR WORKING BACKGROUND?

I LEFT SCHOOL WHEN I WAS SIXTEEN AND WORKED AT THE LOCAL GROCERY STORE. I RODE MY PUSH BIKE 4 KILOMETRES EVERY DAY TO AND FROM WORK. I WORKED THERE FOR TEN YEARS. PHILIP AND I THEN MOVED TO CASTERTON IN 1975 TO RUN OUR OWN PROPERTY.

HAVE YOU PLAYED SPORT IN THE PAST?

I HAVE PLAYED BASKETBALL. I WAS INVOLVED IN LITTLE ATHLETICS AS SECRETARY OF THE CASTERTON CLUB FOR MANY YEARS, HELPING TO RUN MANY EVENTS. I WAS ON THE LADIES COMMITTEE AT THE CASTERTON FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB FOR MANY YEARS. I ALSO UMPIRED AND COACHED NETBALL AT THE CLUB.

WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT BOWLING?

I LOVE TO COMPETE IN ALL EVENTS. IF YOU WIN IT'S A BONUS. BUT BOWLS IS A VERY CHALLENGING GAME AND THIS IS WHAT I PARTICULARLY LIKE ABOUT BOWLS. I LOVE TO SEE THE YOUNGER GENERATION HAVING A GO AT BOWLS. I SAY, "GIVE THE YOUNGER ONES A GO AT ALL ASPECTS OF BOWLING AND HOW TO RUN OUR CLUB." I DO NOT LIKE PEOPLE CRITICIZING THE CLUB. WE NEED TO BE POSITIVE THINKERS FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR CLUB.



Fly On The Wall

with Loui The Fly

The winter exodus has commenced. Ian and Maree Dalton have been swanning around Europe visiting more places than I knew existed. Maree kindly documented her trip on Facebook and it was amazing how many places in the world you can buy a glass of wine, which I might add, featured prominently in all her posts. John Klein also did the gypsy thing through Europe but has kept his travels relatively quiet but cruising down the Danube with the odd alcoholic drink to pass the time may have featured. Pat Greene snuck away for a couple of weeks in Fiji and caused a beer shortage on Denarau Island. Have you spotted the common thread? Tim Smithyman heading off to Japan with his family in tow which begs the question, are we paying him too much? Jeff Wooley, ready to depart for Germany and on it goes.

Then we have our Australian travellers. Jon Clegg, Lynne Moloney, Luke Williams, Muscles Johnston and Micky Edwards all up on the Gold Coast for the Australian Open with Muscles teaming up with Leigh to rip off Tweed Heads for some more prize money prior to the AO commencing. A group including Pod, Spud Anderton, Barb Pulling, Shayne and Marita Dalton, and I hear possibly the Travelling Wilburys, Jon and Lynne, heading to Darwin to play in a tournament up there. Half the Club heading for Hervey Bay including John Carroll, Rattie Holder (yep more BBQ tips with a red wine slur) and Sue Reilly, Kenny Johnson and possibly a few others. The Barclay's, McGillivray's and White's heading for Cooktown and working their way back. Robin Bayne and Anne heading for some nudist camp on the Murray River. Okay, I made the nudist camp bit up but I had you thinking. Obviously cost of living pressures are not as bad as they reckon unless there have been some undisclosed Tattsлото winnings in town. Me; I treated the wife to a meal at the Woolsthorpe Pub and had to take out a bank loan to pay the bill!

Good to see the announcement that Mat 'Mattress' White has rejoined the Club for the upcoming season. You may not recognise him on his return because he has left more than half his body weight somewhere else. Might have to rename him Pillow White! Another new member, Chris Adams from Colac. I am told you will know who he is immediately because he is louder than the Real Deal apparently. Now that is loud!

Let's go to the long and the short of it. Congratulations to Steve Mitchell and Mick Edwards on being selected again in the Victorian Armed Bowlers team. Steve will travel anywhere to sell his preserves. Micky just wants to use his suitcase for its' intended purpose.

Any truth in the rumour that the Club called for scrutineers for the recent AGM elections and some members were told they need not apply based on historical precedent?

Never underestimate the influence of Barry Gleeson. Sandy McCallion turns up to play social bowls quietly spruiking she has not bowled a wrong bias for two years. Gets teamed up on the day with Baz, and you guessed it, she managed to not only bowl one wrong bias but two on the day. Baz, he had a clean sheet but his influence cannot be denied!

This may be an oxymoron, but Trevor Martin makes no appearance in this column this month, not because he did not say anything stupid, it's just because nobody told me about it!

Seems some of our younger members do not quite understand the definition of designated driver. It means that you stay sober and drive your passengers' home at the end of the event. Not after one beer, not half way through the event but when your passengers are ready to go. It appears Sean Verdon has not quite grasped this concept and left his father stranded.

Bowls seasons come around quickly with lists already going up for those that want to play pennant for the upcoming season and for the practice match at Drysdale, so I thought it an opportune time to send a message to the Selectors. So here it goes.

'Don't break my heart, my achy breaky heart. I just don't think you understand. Coz if you break my heart, my achy breaky heart, I will just keep my head in the sand.

Give me a skip, a decent bloody skip, one who won't rant and rave. And when we're five down, he won't pull a frown, but just come up with a save.

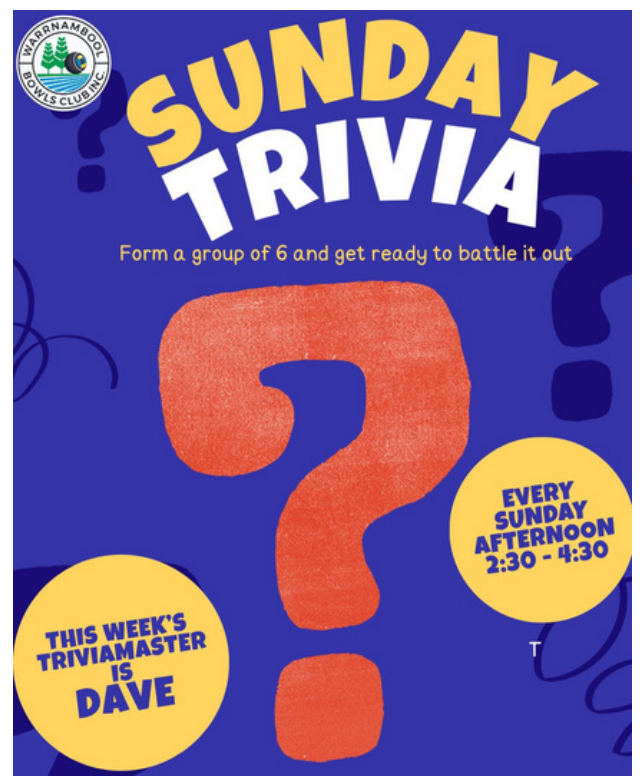
Give me a third, a decent bloody third, one who doesn't think he's boss. And when the game is over, he doesn't think he's clover, and blame everyone else for the loss.

Give me a second, a decent bloody second, one who will get a bowl close. Coz when I miss out, I don't need the pout, just somebody to cover my mistakes.

Don't break my heart, my achy breaky heart. I just don't think you understand. Coz if you break my heart, my achy breaky heart, I will just keep my head in the sand.'

Be careful out there!

Loui.





IAN "BOB" HATFIELD

PERPETUAL TRIPLES CUP

1ST \$2100
2ND \$1200
3RD 600
4TH \$450

4 x \$60.00 BEST
GAME WINNER

1 x \$60 GOLDEN
HAND AWARD

SUNDAY OCTOBER 18. 2026

ENTRY FEE \$120 PER TEAM
LUNCH INCLUDED

LOCATION

75 TIMOR ST, WARRNAMBOOL

The Warrnambool Bowls Club
TIER 4 BA RANKING POINTS EVENT



Around the Club

POD's Retirement Celebrations





Around the Club

Images from around the Club for June & July 2026



**Our loyal volunteers, Hard at work
during the working bee**



Around the Club

Images from around the Club for June & July 2026

School Holiday Bowls Experience @ WBC



Happy Birthday

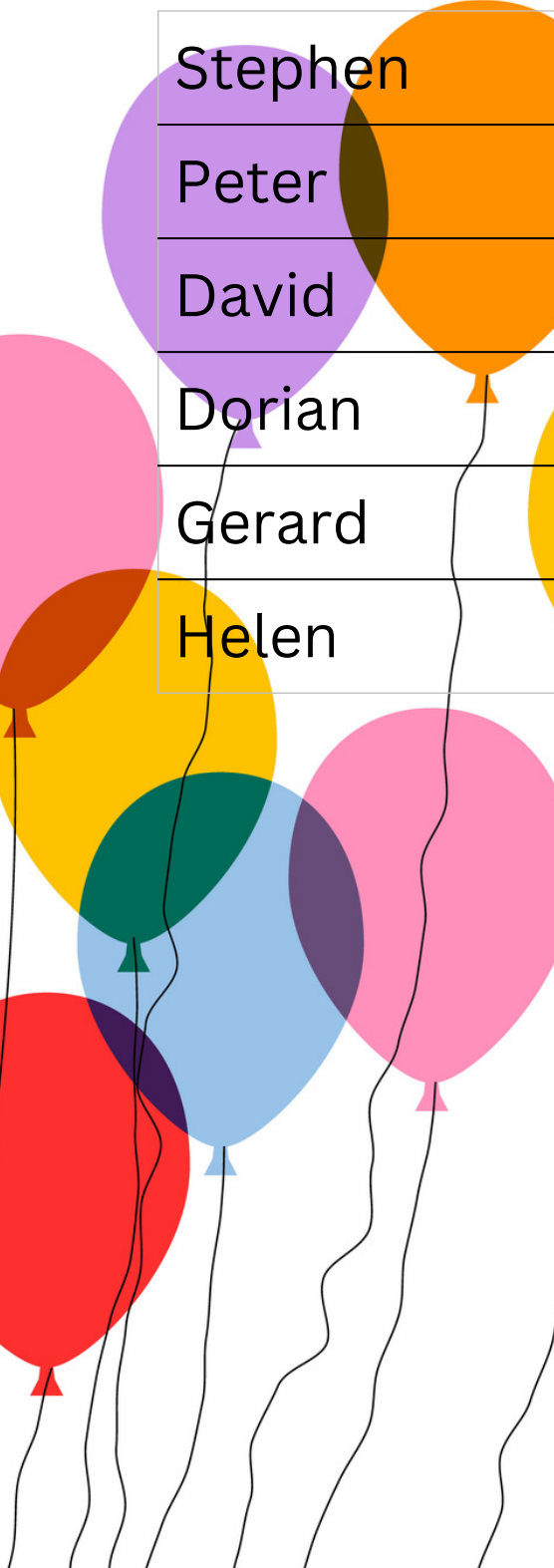
TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO WILL BE
CELEBRATING THEIR BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF
JULY



Russell	Anderson	11th July
Gary	Arnott	5th July
Rodney	Brooks	7th July
Ivan	Cross	20th July
Ron	Cunnington	2nd July
Maree	Dalton	20th July
Helen	Edwards	2nd July
Matt	Hatfield	10th July
Brenda	Hawker	27th July
Isabella	Inia	12th July
Don	Johnson	8th July
Pat	Kelly	8th July
Emma	Newton	2nd July

Happy Birthday

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



Stephen	Vick	31st July
Peter	Watson	29th July
David	Whiteside	29th July
Dorian	Fearon	28th July
Gerard	Mcdonald	27th July
Helen	Wiggins	30th July