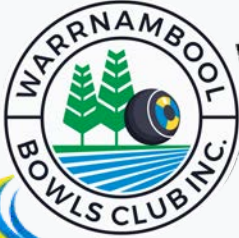


# BOWLSPEAK



April/May Edition 2026

The Monthly Newsletter of the Warrnambool Bowls Club Inc

**QUBE**

## 2026 Autumn Classic Wrap Up





# Chairperson's Report

with Emma Newton

Dear Members,

The Autumn Classic Tournament proved to be a fantastic week for Warrnambool Bowls Club, highlighting outstanding competition, resilience, and a strong sense of community spirit—despite some challenging weather along the way.

With the generous support of our sponsors, the valued assistance of City Bowls Club, and the tireless efforts of our committee, staff, and volunteers, the event ran seamlessly while maintaining a warm and energetic atmosphere throughout the week.

The tournament built to a thrilling finale, with a nail-biting final day of matches that went right down to the wire. We extend our warmest congratulations to our deserving winners for their exceptional performances in what was truly a memorable event enjoyed by all.

There's still plenty to look forward to at the club, with the Men's and Ladies' Club Pairs coming up, followed by Presentation Day—a great opportunity for everyone to come together and celebrate the season.

Looking ahead to May, the racing carnival is just around the corner. The club will be running shuttle services to the races, along with entertainment back at the club, ensuring there's something for everyone to enjoy.

As of 16 April, public submissions about our purchase of the greens have now closed. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts—we really appreciate the support and engagement.

We're hopeful that council will move forward with the sale, and we'll be sure to keep you updated as soon as there's more to share.

Warm regards,  
Emma Newton  
Chairperson



# Club Sponsors

Support the amazing business that support our Club





# Manager's Update

with Tim Smithyman

Dear WBC Members,

The wet season is here, which can only mean one thing... the May Races must be just around the corner

The Qube Logistics Autumn Classic wrapped up as another great success, despite the less than friendly weather. A big thank you to City Memorial Bowls Club for allowing us access to their undercover greens for the later part of the tournament. Hopefully the rain won't play such a starring role in future years.

Events like this don't happen without plenty of people pitching in behind the scenes. Thanks to everyone who helped with setup, breakfast roll duties, and everything else in between. Your support makes a huge difference. A special thanks as well to Qube Logistics for their continued sponsorship of this fantastic event, and to Sam and the kitchen team who kept everyone well fed across the week.

Lastly, a very personal thank you to POD. It feels like we finally got everything running exactly how we wanted this year, and unfortunately it will be the last Classic we deliver together in these roles.

Each year you brought something new to the event, along with a few new challenges, and somehow we always managed to land on our feet. The addition of live scoring this year was a standout improvement and made life much easier for both of us. Thanks for all the work you've put into the Classic over the years. It's been a pleasure, most of the time. I'll genuinely miss working on these projects with you in this role.

With May nearly here, the May Racing Carnival is just around the corner. As always, we'll be running our free shuttle service between the Club and the racecourse from Tuesday through to Thursday.

We'll also have live music each night of the Carnival in the bar:

- Tuesday: The 2 Dudes
- Wednesday: Glenn Kelly
- Thursday: Richard Tankard on the keys to wind things down

Unfortunately Lynne & The Teachers Pets won't be kicking things off this year, but hopefully we'll see them back headlining in 2027.

As always during race week, I'd strongly recommend booking a table if you're planning to dine at the Club for dinner. It gets busy across the Carnival week.

Mother's Day is coming up on Sunday 10 May. We'll be running a lunch special along with a Mother's Day raffle, so it's a great chance to bring Mum along and make a day of it.

If lunch with Mum isn't your thing, we're also partnering with Dirty Angel Comedy to bring Friendlyjordies live to the Club that night. Friendlyjordies, also known as Jordan Shanks, is one of Australia's best known political satirists and online commentators, with millions of followers across YouTube and social media. His stand up show mixes sharp political humour with observations about Australian life and culture, and it's shaping up to be a big night at the Club. Tickets are available online

I'm also pleased to share that the Warrnambool Bowls Club has been named a finalist for Best Bistro and Best Venue in the 2026 Frontier Hospitality Awards. These awards are judged by secret shoppers visiting venues throughout the year, so it's fantastic recognition for the effort our staff put into customer service and food quality every day. A great achievement for the whole team.

The 2026 Warrnambool Bowls Club AGM will be held on Sunday 28 June 2026. There are four Board positions up for renewal this year. Nomination forms will be available from Friday 1 May, with nominations closing at the start of June. If you are interested in standing for the Board of Management, please see me, or while I'm away, Lisa Casamento, to collect a nomination form.

The AGM is also a great opportunity to ask questions of the Board. If there's something you'd like raised on the day, please forward your question to our Chairperson ahead of time.

I'll be on annual leave during May. While I'm away, Lisa Casamento will be the main point of contact at the Club.

Our Sunday Trivia and Musical Bingo nights continue to draw strong crowds and plenty of laughs.

We also have more events on the way, so keep an eye out for our upcoming events screen around the Club for what's coming next.

That's all from me this month.  
Happy punting at the May Races,

ありがとうございます。また近いうちにお会いしましょう。

Tim Smithyman  
General Manager



# Bowl's Co Report

with Paul O'Donnell

April has been a busy month and well done to all members who helped over the Autumn Classic.

Special mention to the Bowls Section committee, who did a power of work, both prior and during the event. Their work goes unnoticed but is greatly appreciated by myself and I'm sure, all those who competed in the Autumn Classic.

Club Championships will be finalised soon, so our Presentation Lunch is listed for Sunday May the 3<sup>rd</sup>. We would expect all Members to be present for this, as it's the culmination of a great year for the club.

Also our Bowls Section Annual meeting is listed for Thursday May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6.30. Nomination forms will be going up soon, so we expect plenty of Members to put their hands up to help out.

Paul O'Donnell  
Bowls Co-ordinator

**LITTLE LEGENDS**  
**PLAY LOUNGE**

OPEN DURING BISTRO HOURS  
TUESDAY TILL SUNDAY  
FOR LUNCH & DINNER

The graphic includes a circular logo for 'WARRNAMBOO BOWLS CLUB INC.' in the top left corner. The main illustration shows a cartoon bull wearing a blue cap and holding a bowling ball. To the right, there are three photographs: the top one shows two racing simulators with 'DAYTONA USA' branding; the middle one shows a claw machine filled with colorful plush toys; and the bottom one shows another claw machine.

Major Sponsors for April 2026



# FRIENDLYJORDIES

# THE END OF THE WORLD

a feel-good comedy



**SUNDAY MAY 10 @ 7:30 - 9PM**  
**WWW.DIRTYANGELCOMEDY.COM**



# Match Commitee News

with Bill Hunting

Another successful Autumn Classic has been run and won. All players had a great time. Thanks to City Bowls for the use of their greens during the inclement weather.

Social bowls is still moving along, although some players are setting off on their northern treks.

Sixteen of our bowlers represented the Warrnambool RSL Club in the Edinburgh Shield last weekend, coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> place against Moama. John Klein, Ray McGillivray, Pat Greene and the evergreen Laurie McLaren won King of the Rinks. Fun was had by all, with the Down Low Award being won by Pat Greene.

Club pairs started last weekend and congratulations to the women's winners Brenda Hawker and Marita Dalton and the men's pairs winners Bill Tory and Benny Cornick. Mixed pairs start this weekend – good luck to all players





# Social Bowls Results

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

Date		Players	Score
<b>18th March 2026</b>	Winners of Winners	A Campbell & S Verdon	+5
	Winners of Losers	B Uebergang & P Thorsen	+10
<b>20th March 2026</b>	Winners of Winners	I Cross & M Hodges	+10
	Winners of Losers	B Murrell & D Sedgley	+11
<b>25th March 2026</b>	Winners of Winners	L McCosh & B Murrell	+20
	Winners of Losers	B Hunting & L McLaren	+2
<b>27th March 2026</b>	Winners of Winners	B Hunting & R Hill	+16
	Winners of Losers	P Verdon & S Verdon	+24

Major Sponsors for April 2026





# 10 Mintues with.....

By Lynne Moloney

Paul 'POD' O'Donnell is the current Bowls Co-ordinator at Warrnambool Bowls Club, looking forward to retirement at the end of June. He is married to the lovely Karen and has four children and seven grandchildren.

## What sports have you played in the past?

Football, cricket, basketball; I tried golf but I wasn't any good at it – didn't have the right temperament. I played football for South Warrnambool and Dennington. I started at South through the under 12s and played all the way through to seniors. Then I went to Dennington where we won a premiership in 1982. I then helped a mate out at East Warrnambool when he was coaching, Dick Kelson, with Shane Dalton and we had a bit of fun. I also had a couple of years in Queensland playing for Palm Beach, Currumbin and Burleigh Heads. We moved up there for two years and then came back to be closer to most of our family. Also the Gold Coast was starting to get very busy.

## How long have you been bowling and how did you start?

I started bowling over 30 years ago through a City Memorial barefoot competition when I was working with Coca-cola. We entered a work team and Skeeta McMahon, who was bowling at City Memorial, encouraged me to keep going. I bowled at City Memorial until I got the job at Warrnambool BC. I started here doing general duties and maintenance of the greens and then the manager and Board at the time saw a need for a Bowls Co-ordinator. I started in that role in about 2006.

## What are some of your bowling highlights

When I first started I was keen to win the Club singles which I did the second year I was here. Then my focus shifted to pennant, which it always had been, but I had a stronger focus. The pennant success at that time was fruitful for me both from a personal and club perspective. I have always been involved in club orientated sport. Warrnambool and City Memorial were always the strong clubs in the competition.

I won a Victorian State Triples with Peter Pangrazio and Tristan McArthur back in 2017 which was great. We went off to the Australian titles which we weren't lucky enough to win but it was a great experience. I would like to see more State title wins for the Club and region – they are hard to get though!

## What is your approach to coaching?

I had to take on coaching when I started in the Co-ordinator's role. It was always something I liked doing and it was important not to fall into the trap of getting everyone to bowl like you do – that's a big no-no as far as I can see. Everyone has their idiosyncrasies on how they deliver a bowl but the main thing is to get the same thing done each time you deliver. All the top bowlers have very different deliveries but they do the same thing every time which makes their weight control easier to achieve.

### How did the Autumn Classic start?

When I first started at Warrnambool BC the Macy's fours was our big tournament which went over a couple of days but it was dying. I came up with the plan of making a bigger tournament and got head-butted by Bowls Victoria at that stage because I wanted to make it a \$10,000 event and have three different events. At that time Bowls Victoria had rules that if you had an event that was worth over \$5,000 you had to get permission from them to run it. I did that and they said no as it could have affected their planning. That generated the idea of coming up with three separate events with a pay-out each day. I fell back on that and created \$3,300 three day tournaments.

Now we are planning for the Aussie Broadband and SHB tournaments in January and a third \$10,000 event for that, making it worth \$40,000 over four days. The event will be singles, which will probably be the richest one day event around, triples go up to \$19,000 through Aussie Broadband sponsorship and three-bowl pairs on the fourth day. We are still working on the format

### What is the best thing about the Warrnambool Bowls Club?

I think the friends you make. A few of my mates came here and took up bowls but a club like this generates a lot of friendships – people you have never known or played footy or cricket against and that you may or may not have liked. It's not always 100%, never is in any sporting club, but 99% of them turn out to be really good friends and good team mates – I think that is the most important thing.

### What can you see as the future of the club?

Only growing with the plans for a roof. I think we are really well placed no matter when the roof goes up in that we, the club as a whole, look after bowlers first and if we can keep that going I think it will be non-stop for the club

### What does the future hold for you?

I will probably play a bit more bowls than what I have been. The wife has a heap of jobs for me to do and I want to spend time with the family as well. I hope to find time to catch up with friends in other states too.





# SUNDAY TRIVIA

Form a group of 6 and get ready to battle it out



**EVERY  
SUNDAY  
AFTERNOON  
2:30 - 4:30**

**THIS WEEK'S  
TRIVIAMASTER  
IS  
DAVE**

T



# Fly On The Wall

with Loui The Fly

Easter and the Autumn Classic. A busy time at the Club. We know bowls is traditionally a summer sport but that rain during the Classic was beyond what was acceptable. If Noah lived here, he would have built an Ark. Never thought I would find myself praising our adversaries up the hill but without the assistance of City Memorial our tournament would have been in big trouble. I found that exceedingly difficult to write believe me, but credit where credit is due and that is hopefully the last time I will ever praise them! Well done POD for keeping it all together. Not the way you would prefer to finish your last Autumn Classic as the Tournament Director.

The tournament brought out hidden talents on the microphone. Johnny Klein, Jimmy McGuinan, Paul White, Jon Clegg, Maree Dalton and Sean Verdon to name a few, but the doyen of commentary must go to Grant aka Horse Gibson. He did the three days of the fours' tournament, mostly with Sean, and he was compiling and referring to more stats than the Australian Bureau of Statistics. He had Jon Clegg comparing him to the great Bruce McAvaney at one stage. Who knows? Channel 7 might contact him to travel to the Melbourne Commonwealth Games in Glasgow for a commentary gig. We have provided the funding so we may as well provide the commentary team. Will the Warrnambool Bowls Club get a talent spotting fee?

I briefly mentioned Lynne Moloney's faux pas last month with her 'up and down' comment. Unfortunately, this month she was at it again. As most Skippers will tell you, there are many ways to ask your playing partner for a back bowl. You can simply ask for a back bowl, call for a bowl on the 'T' etc. For your benefit going forward Lynne, 'Can you give me one out the back?' is not completely appropriate and may lead to some of our more vintage players, not to mention Jon, going into a little shock!

Digger Mahoney's latest trip away proved problematic for a tourist operator at Phillip Island. Appears that Digger was insistent in trying out the go karts. Trying to squeeze him into one was, shall we say, not an easy task and finding a helmet to fit his boof head was also very trying. After all these difficulties and with his glorious moustache safely stowed inside the helmet, he was finally kitted up and ready to go. However, go karts do not go that fast when they are burdened with so much weight and Digger was witnessed slowly circling the track at the rear of the field. Formula One racer he is not! Worse, Julie has the video evidence to playback for anyone to would like to witness his humiliation.

Same old people keep getting mentioned in this newsletter. Trevor Martin, a retired paramedic, was enlightening us with the many uses for a body bag. Not a great subject when you are at a bowling club for obvious reasons. They have been used as swags, as eskies, ground covers and it goes on and on. Unfortunately, he nearly ended up in a body bag that same night when he accidentally purloined Bear Yewers' beer off the bar. Bear obviously chased him down and was none too pleased. Being relatively new to the Club, it is obvious no one has told Trevor that you do not poke the Bear.

I hear Wally from Woolsthorpe is on the move again. Obviously, he preferred the moniker of Kenny from Koroit. I am sure we will still see plenty of him in the bar regardless. I will miss you, Kenny.

Micky Edwards is not going on holiday. The suitcase he has started carrying around is his new bowls bag! Very organised on the inside too I am reliably informed. Even has a spot for his floaties if he decides to have a dip in Pal White's spa on the way home. If you have priced a new bowls bag lately, you could take a hint from Mick and look for alternatives.

In contrast, Anne Chapman must be going on holiday. I went down to the supermarket to buy frozen pies and they were out of stock. When I related this to somebody else at the Club, they told me that when Anne goes away, that is all that Robin Bayne eats, whether it be for one day, two days or two weeks! Robin had obviously beaten me to the freezer section.

Did not know if I was watching the Toy Story movie or if I had been transported to far western NSW when Dom Bushell walked in his big cowboy hat, his RM Williams boots, his chequered shirt and chinos. I guess you need to look the part if you have gone in to selling rural real estate. The question is, did he buy this new outfit, or has he always had it in his fancy dress closet? Certainly not out of place at the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

As you get older it is wise to take advice from those in the medical profession. This pearl of wisdom comes from a respected elder of our Club, who coincidentally, is not shy of providing helpful tips. If you want to keep hold of your driving licence at an advanced age do not drive to a medical appointment and crash into the Doctor's car in the car park. I am told that GP's look at this in an extremely poor light and you will be either walking home or catching a taxi.

Until next time,

**Loui**



# What's On at the Club!

**WARRNAMBOOL MAY RACE CARNIVAL**  
**TUESDAY 5TH MAY - THURSDAY 7TH MAY**



## FREE SHUTTLE BUS

To & from the track across the week



**TAB Terminal**  
available at the Club



**Bistro Open**  
for Dinner  
till 8:30 PM

## — Live Music From 6:00 PM! —

TUESDAY 5TH MAY



**THE 2  
DUDES**

WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY



**GLENN  
KELLY**

THURSDAY 7TH MAY



**RICHARD  
TANKARD**

### FREE ENTRY!

Everyone  
Welcome



SCAN TO BOOK A TABLE

**75 Timor St, Warrnambool | 5561 4586**



Huge congratulations to Casey McGillivray for winning the indoor singles at Colac – next stop, Tweed Heads!



And our Women's B grade champ Casey McGillivray and runner up Barb Hill!



Digger demonstrating his unique parking skills – perhaps he should stick to go-karts?



The 'Deal' dancing his way into the money.



Great to see the Jones brothers back for the Classic – apparently dad was too busy swanning around Japan!



Congratulations to our Men's B-grade champ Sean Verdon and runner up Simon Johnson!



Happy Autumn Classic Families!

# Happy Birthday

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



<b>Darren</b>	<b>Brown</b>	<b>22nd May</b>
<b>Dominic</b>	<b>Bushell</b>	<b>12th May</b>
<b>Ben</b>	<b>Cornick</b>	<b>21st May</b>
<b>Darren</b>	<b>Firmin</b>	<b>10th May</b>
<b>Trevor</b>	<b>Martin</b>	<b>1st May</b>
<b>Stuart</b>	<b>Mckenry</b>	<b>4th May</b>
<b>Laurie</b>	<b>Mclaren</b>	<b>4th May</b>
<b>Paul</b>	<b>O`donnell</b>	<b>24th May</b>

Warrnambool Bowls Club

[www.warrnamboolbowls.com.au](http://www.warrnamboolbowls.com.au)

# BOWLSPEAK



Got something you would like to add to Bowlspeak?  
Email the Editor: [moloney.lynne.l@gmail.com](mailto:moloney.lynne.l@gmail.com)