

# KITTY WHISPERS

**NARRE WARREN BOWLS CLUB**  
**MAGID DRIVE, NARRE WARREN 3805**  
**PH: 9704 9702**  
**NARREBOWLSCLUB@BIGPOND.COM**  
**EDITOR: MICKI.HORTON@YAHOO.COM.AU**

March 2015

We were "that" close



Saturday's Division 7 - after several years of getting into the finals but not going up a division, broke the jinx, finishing top and winning the semi-final.

Unfortunately, we missed out on the flag,  
but it was a terrific effort by all concerned. Congratulations!

# President's Report



aving just returned from a week in the Huon Valley, Tasmania, (by the way, we did not see Greg Cowen and his new wife on their honeymoon) it dawned on me that our pennant season was well and truly done and dusted.

And what a successful season the Narre Warren Bowls Club had, having six pennant sides - three in the finals - making their presence felt.

Also, a section of our bowlers went very deep into the Casey Division and Casey Peninsula Region. I shall leave the report of the pennant season and Casey Division to Norm Hosmer, our Chairman of Selectors.

Don't forget that winter bowls will be alive and active; also, our indoor bowls will be played at the clubhouse. Members can stay in contact with the club and become involved in either or both of these activities.

As this is my last Whispers report for the current season, I must congratulate Micki for her committed efforts to bring the members up to date with all the news around our club.

While I feel apprehensive about thanking anyone (in case I leave someone out) I must thank our secretary,

Reg, personally, for his endeavour and commitment to do everything right (by the Constitution) for the club. It was an outstanding effort; thanks, Reg.

To the members of the Board, I thank you for your strong and committed support, in every situation.

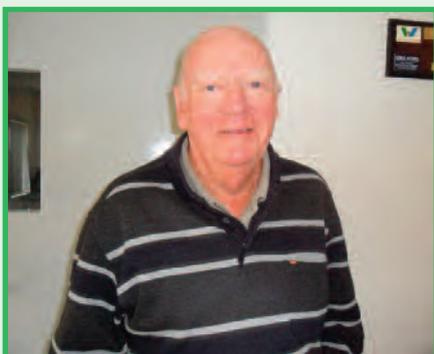
As I wrote I in the last Kitty Whispers, the Board has at times had to make hard decisions that at times concerned some members, but credit to all involved, most accepted the Board's decisions and/or those of the appointed committees and moved on for the benefit of the club.

When I look back over my year as your President and some of the problems that our club has encountered, I would encourage everyone to read and understand what our Constitution stands for – that the correct procedures are laid down to ensure that our club is run accordingly and that all members respect each other.

I often recall the words of my high school principal (Mr McCrae-Williamson) at the last assembly I attended - “never let your school down as it will never let you down.” Replace the word school with “our club” and it reads well.

Moving on to a brighter subject, I wish to thank all of you - our members - for the support and encouragement that I have received for my term as your President. You have been outstanding and have given me memories to look back on with fondness.

**KERRY DAVIS**  
*President*



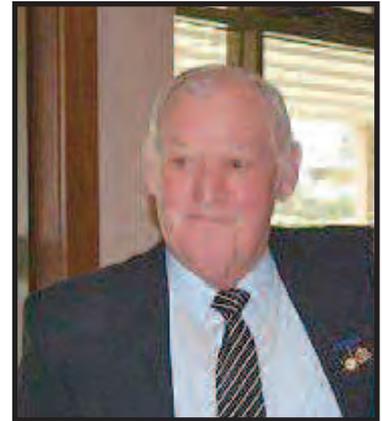
## Selection

We come to the end of another pennant season; no flags, but a great effort with three out of six sides making the finals. Well done Divisions 2 and 7 for making the Saturday grand finals; so close both could have gone either way. What a great effort with Tuesday Division 3 making the finals. All other sides were very competitive.

A big thanks to the selection panel for its input during the year in making the hard decisions that were required each week. Plus, a very special thanks to Ray Pigdon for the many hours he spent in producing player statistics and reports.

**Norm Hosmer**  
*Chairman of Selectors*

# Secretary's Report



NO REPORT



**Luke Donnellan MP**  
State Member for Narre Warren North

*If I can be of any assistance to you or a member of your family, please don't hesitate to call me.*

*Shop 101, Endeavour Hills Shopping Centre  
Cnr Heatherton Rd and Matthew Flinders Ave  
Endeavour Hills VIC 3802*

*Phone: 9706 0566 Fax: 9706 0388  
Email: [luke.donnellan@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:luke.donnellan@parliament.vic.gov.au)*

Authorised by L Donnellan, Shop 101 Endeavour Hills  
S/C, Heatherton Rd, Endeavour Hills VIC 3802



## *Pennant* by Ray Pigdon



Tuesday's Division 3. Back row: John Green, Manager Enid Gibb, Gary Gilchrist, Ray Pigdon, Pam Uren, Carl Lapham, Len O'Brien. Front row: Andy Tobler, Ethel van Maanen, Janice Moran, Micki Horton, Nancy Pugh

### POST-SECTIONAL SEMI-FINAL TUES DIVISION 3

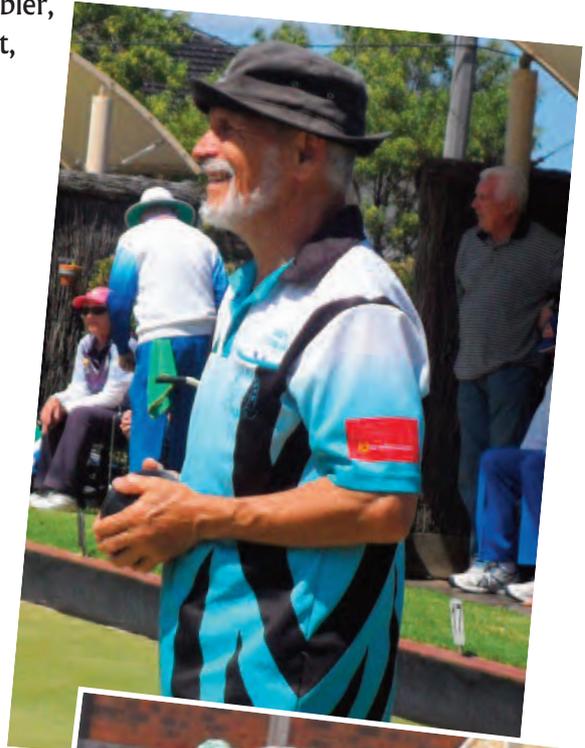
Played at Mulgrave, it was always going to be a tough game against the favourites, and any thoughts of an upset win were dispelled when the rink of **Arthur Fitt, Janice Moran, Ethel van Maanen, Micki Horton** was down 13/1 after six ends, finally going down 9/29.

The rink of **Len O'Brien, Andy Tobler, Gary Gilchrist, John Green** was down 2/17 after eight ends, and never recovered, to go down 10/35.

**Nancy Pugh, Pam Uren, Carl Lapham** and **Ray Pigdon** had a tight game all day. With scores tied on 17, and Narre holding shot, the result came down to the Mulgrave skip who, with his last bowl drew the shot to take the game by one and a final score of 17/18.

The side should be pleased with its performance over the season to finish fourth, even though disappointed in the end result.

We didn't give up. Clockwise: Carl Lapham, Andy Tobler, Pam Uren, Nancy Pugh, Ray Pigdon, Gary Gilchrist, Len O'Brien, Enid Gibb



## POST-SECTIONAL SEMI-FINAL SATURDAY DIVISION 2

Playing at Mulgrave against the warm favourites showed that on any given day the underdogs can triumph and, with three rinks winning, the game went to the Narre side 83/72. This was a great effort by a side prepared to have a real go for its club and prove that the small clubs can compete against the big boys. **Karen Murray, Keith Mark, Wilma Stevenson, Eric Sydenham** 28/15. **Wilma Haringsma, Mathew Fitt, Paul O'Day, Iain Stevenson** 21/16. **Shirley Bell, Alan Dawson, Erik Luyters, Neville Bradley** 20/15. **Ernesto Vergara, Carl Lapham, Jimmy Millar Norm Hosmer** 14/26. Unfortunately, no-one took photographs of the side.

## POST-SECTIONAL SEMI-FINAL SATURDAY DIVISION 7

After finishing the season on top of the ladder the side earned a home final against Pakenham and proved why it finished number one. With a 33-shot win they move into the Sectional final against Mulgrave, thus ensuring promotion to Division 6 next season. After four frustrating years of losing the semi-final, it is a great boost for the club to finally nail a win. A fine effort by the club to win both Divisions on the same day and show what team spirit and dedication to the cause can achieve. **Janice Moran, Reg Young, Ethel van Maanen, Micki Horton** 21/18. **Len O'Brien, Steve Boyd, Janis Dukats, John Green** 19/18. **Glen Cadman, Jim Sheahan, Rick Hoare, Brian Fraser** 25/18. **Arthur Fitt, Graham Dodd, Peter Castricum, Damian Brick** 32/10.



Clockwise: Arthur Fitt,  
Janice Moran, Damian  
Brick, Trish Miller, Kery  
Cadman, John Heathcote,  
Brian Fraser





Clockwise: Janice Moran,  
Ethel van Maanen,  
Micki Horton, Reg Young.

## FINAL RESULTS

After a successful season with three of our six sides playing finals and one going down in the semi last Tuesday, the two Saturday sides - after winning their respective semi-finals on Saturday - played their Sectional Final on Sunday.

**Division 2** travelled to Cranbourne to take on Hampton Park in a local derby and, after a close game, could not hang on, going down on three rinks to lose by 11 shots 82/93. This was a great effort by our top side, making the finals for the second time in two years since promotion to Division 2. **Karen Murray, Keith Mark, John Heathcote, Eric Sydenham 11/25. Wilma Haringsma, Carl Lapham, Paul O'Day, Iain Stevenson 27/16. Shirley Bell, Alan Dawson, Erik Luyters, Neville Bradley 21/28. Ernesto Vergara, Mathew Fitt, Jimmy Millar, Norm Hosmer 21/24.**

**Division 7** After a great season finishing clear on top of the ladder and winning the important semi, they gained promotion to Division 6. They then travelled to Waverley Golf on Sunday to take on the strong Mulgrave side and, after a game worthy of a final with the scores close all day and two rinks coming home with a wet sail, they finished with three rinks up but just failed to make up the difference in the end and went down by six shots 73/79. But the disappointment of losing was not too painful, knowing that their goal was achieved. **Janice Moran, Reg Young, Ethel van Maanen, Micki Horton 21/19. Len O'Brien, Steve Boyd, Janis Dukats, John Green 13/33. Glen Cadman, Jim Sheahan, Rick Hoare, Brian Fraser 16/15. Arthur Fitt, Graham Dodd,**

# Cabaret

*On Friday 6 February we were treated to the most accomplished entertainer we have featured in a long time. Rick Charles, whose voice has more depth than the Pacific Ocean, and more shades than the Blind Factory, kept those who attended enthralled from start to finish.*

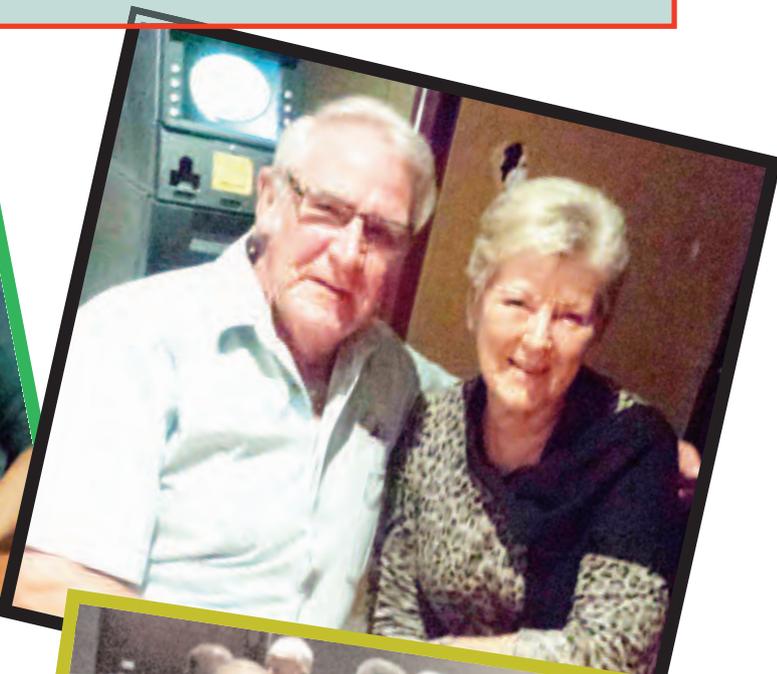




# Hallam Hotel Dinner

More than 50 members and partners turned out in their finery for the End of Pennant Season dinner at the Hallam Hotel on 24 February.

They were as pictured:











# Corporate Challenge

Our third Corporate Challenge was a resounding success, with 16 teams taking part. These players appear to be enjoying themselves more each year, and would welcome the opportunity to challenge club members. Sponsored by **Berwick Mazda**, the winners this year were 'In It To Win It', with runners-up being 'Red Hots'. Winners on the night were 'Beauty and the Bear'. Thanks very much to the club members who helped out in all aspects of the series.



Congratulations to all the bowlers who made it through to Division and Region Finals. It has been a very rewarding season not only for individuals concerned but for the club as a whole. As one of the smaller clubs, it has been a super year which reflects on the efforts by all the members who participated. WELL DONE!

*Stellar*



*Season*



*for Harre*



*Bowlers*

## Casey Division Winners

**Men's Triples:** Jeff Parker, Paul O'Day, Andy Kidd.

**Men's Pairs:** Iain Stevenson, Rod Lane.

**Over 60 Pairs:** Paul O'Day, Andy Kidd.

**Women's Novice:** Margo Worsley.

**Women's Over 60 Singles:** Wilma Stevenson

## Runners up

**Women's Champion of Champions:** Shirley Bell.

**Mixed Pairs:** Jess O'Day, Jeff Parker.

**Women's Singles:** Wilma Stevenson.

**Men's Novice Singles:** Peter Lister.

**Women's Novice Singles:** Jess O'Day.

## Casey Peninsula Region Winners

**Men's Triples:** Jeff Parker, Paul O'Day, Andy Kidd.

As winners of the Region triples, the team now represents the Region in the last 16 of the state titles. The club wishes them well for their coming matches later in the month.

# WELCOME TO THE END-OF-SEASON COACH'S TIPS

This is the time of year to start to evaluate your success rate against your less successful achievements of this past season.

This evaluation should be personal and only consider YOUR RESULTS and not your team's results, as others also had input into the results that the team would have achieved.

Pennant season has finished, but this does not mean it is all over for the year. There will be a lot of bowls still to be played before we hibernate or migrate north of the border to experience those fast slippery greens that you just seem to master when it is time to head home.

For those of you who wish to improve or may be considering changing your bowls, now is the time to do so as we still have plenty of good weather which will allow you to practise the new skills you wish to add to your game bag. Those with new bowls can learn to use them on good greens before winter sets in and the greens become slow and heavy. Those of you going north this time can help you improve your game and hopefully set your mind to using MORE GRASS, and remembering to go back to basics on the mat when you are struggling to get near the shot you are being asked to play.

From now until the start of next season we should also be trying to learn and improve our skills so that at practice games the selectors will not be saying they played there last year but will be more obliged to consider the next side up or a more responsible position in the team.

From a coaching perspective, the club will still be providing Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday coaching seasons throughout the off-season months for those of you that have already benefitted from this past year and the rest of you that think you can improve by attending and be ready for next season.

Remember it may be off season but the word still is **PRACTISE , PRACTISE, PRACTISE**



*From  
the  
Coach*

# Thanks, Narre

'I'd like to thank everyone at Narre Warren Bowling Club who made my brother **Allan** very welcome when he was on holiday from Scotland.

He enjoyed his time here, and was very appreciative of the friendliness of its members. The highlight was playing in the nominated triples, which we were lucky enough to win. He was also presented with a whisky glass with the Narre Warren Bowls Club insignia, which I am sure he will put to good use!

Thanks again for your friendly welcome. - *Wilma Stevenson*



## SKINS

Our Skins games are gaining in popularity, with the game on 9 March hosting teams from Berwick, Brighton, Dandenong Club, Karingal, Mornington, Pakenham and Tarwin Lower, as well as several of



our own players making up teams. The day got off to a precarious start, with Damian Brick, falling and breaking his arm in three places, leaving Peter Bowman to carry the ball with the help of Stan Birkett. But, it takes more than that to stop Narre from putting on a game, and it went full steam ahead. The local team of Erik Luyters, Keith Mark and skip Eric Sydenham took the honours, with runners up being the nomadic New Zealanders of Bro Team.



# FROM THE UMPIRE'S CHAIR

BY SANDRA LAPHAM

One thing the Division board hoped to see with the formation of Casey Bowls Division was a much increased entry in the division/region events. Much to our delight, this has proved to be the case and, as Ray highlighted in his end-of-season roundup in the local paper, we have enjoyed much success. After a sterling effort on the part of **Paul O'Day**, who played two rounds of the Men's Triples plus a pennant final on the same day, he, **Geoff Parker** and **Andy Kidd** played beautifully to advance to the state round of 16.

Several teams lost in Region finals by close margins, and **Wilma Stevenson** is off to the playoffs as part of the ladies' region team on Wednesday week. I wish them every success on behalf of the club, division and region boards.

We were represented in most of the events, but notably there were no teams in the Fours for both ladies' and men's. It would be good to see some of the fours who play pennant together represented next year.

The scheduling problem which saw Region finals and Metro pennant finals played on the same day will not be repeated; fortunately, both events which affected our club were played at the same venue and, after in-

tense negotiations between the umpire panel, the region match committee and the opponents, the threat of a forfeit was avoided and the match completed.

My congratulations to everyone who competed and I look forward to seeing many more of you next year and, hopefully, we can carry off a cartload of trophies. The inaugural Division Breakfast Presentation will be held at Narre Warren on Sunday 22 March at 10am; congratulations to the players from Narre, and indeed our sister clubs, who will be rewarded for their efforts.

From the umpire's chair I must acknowledge the huge amount of support I have received from the club, the wider bowls community, the many umpires and markers who put their hands up to officiate, and the clubs for making their venues available several times at the last minute and without complaint.

On behalf of the region, Ann Walsh, Peter Bowman and I have recently completed a facilitator/assessor course, which puts us among a very small number of umpires in the metro area qualified to instruct umpire candidates.

There are some also who must be given a special mention; these people have sometimes fussed over me but without them I would not have been able to do my job. To **Reg** and **Ray**, who have always been on tap (it has been suggested that perhaps Ray should sleep at the club), **Micki**, **Judy**, **Gail**, and there will be others who I have missed, my very grateful thanks.

Special mention must go to the two people who have carried the load: to **Peter Bowman** who has ferried me around when I couldn't drive, bossed me and provided chairs while supporting me, and has put in enormous hours on behalf of the club, division, region and the region umpire panel. Lastly, to **Carl**, who has stood back and allowed me to find my feet (carefully watched by his spy network) while making sure I did not come to any harm – without them I would have been forced to resign from my many positions which would have been a huge blow and both of them have been invaluable – I look forward to representing the club in all my positions over the next several years thank you all.



# Garden Gnome Gossip

FROM OUR GARDENING GURU, SANDRA LAPHAM



## The Autumn Assault

That early winter nip is becoming apparent in the mornings now and deciduous plants are losing their leaves much earlier than normal. This does not mean an all-out attack on your rose bushes which, if you have been diligent in

your dead-heading, are still blooming and will probably continue to do so until the rain starts to set in.

But, gather your budding tape or electrical tape in preparation to correct any wind damage prior to pruning, as it is easier to handle a long rose cane when securing the bush. Pruning of these should be done as soon as there is any suggestion of frost, and don't be frightened to cut them right back. Prune to a bud on top of the cane and the cut should be at 45° angle back towards the bush, leaving the upward-facing bud on the top. The initial attack can be made with an electric or battery-powered hedge trimmer; cut the bush back to about a 30cm (12") circle then just use your secateurs to tidy up any loose or scruffy bits. If your bushes such as Just Joeys have grown out from the grafted base in a V shape, trim the large canes to about 30-40cm (12-15") and the smaller outer ones to about 15cm (6") as before, to an outer facing bud and sloping the cut surface down at the 45° angle thus protecting the cut surface from the elements and preventing the

possibility of fungus diseases. If you live in an area which has very heavy frosts, a piece of shadecloth or old hessian material can be tied loosely over the trimmed bush to protect the early buds from damage; this method is much more likely to be used in areas which have snow but a frost of -3° and below would mean damaged buds.

The next three weeks or so will see perhaps an Indian summer period where the temperature hovers around the mid-20s, but it would seem the extreme heat is behind us now and it is time to begin trimming hedges, large shrubs, box hedges and indeed any plants which need to have excess growth removed. Deciduous trees can be pruned as soon as their leaves have fallen off; cut to a desirable shape, and as for roses, to an upper bud and a lower-angled cut. Fronds of burnt ferns can now be cut off, leaving the new growth to spread out and begin to harden up before the worst of winter. Don't forget, we have had not had consistent rain so water should be kept up at least once a week to ferns and softer green shrubs; natives and trees will absorb as much as they need. Lavender, daisies and geraniums should be cut back hard and allowed to begin the re-growth ready for the spring flourish. This should keep all of you very busy now that the bowls season has wound down, and Carl and I will be joining you all in getting our money's worth from our green waste bins. Have a busy autumn; this will be my last column until the lead up to spring when we will go through the process of feeding, remulching etc. See you in the new season.

**Luke Donnellan MP**  
State Member for Narre Warren North

*If I can be of any assistance to you or a member of your family, please don't hesitate to call me.*

**Shop 101, Endeavour Hills Shopping Centre  
Cnr Heatherton Rd and Matthew Flinders Ave  
Endeavour Hills VIC 3802**

**Phone: 9706 0566 Fax: 9706 0388**  
**Email: [luke.donnellan@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:luke.donnellan@parliament.vic.gov.au)**

Authorised by L. Donnellan, Shop 101 Endeavour Hills  
S/C, Heatherton Rd, Endeavour Hills VIC 3802

# Editorial

After the turmoil of the past few weeks, it occurred to me that most members don't really understand the functions of the Board they vote in.

The Board is responsible for not only the day-to-day operations of the club, but is accountable for upholding the Constitution, the Rules of Incorporation and Bowls Victoria.

Also, as the club is licensed, it has to uphold the rules of our licence, the breaking of any of which can land us without said licence.

Recent events have led to the Board being forced to undertake the actions it did. There was no option. Everything that eventuated followed strict guidelines in our Constitution, without fear or favour.

Therefore, whether you agree or not with a verdict, at least do not go bad-mouthing without knowing the facts. This is bad for the morale of the club, and is upsetting for many.

Anyone is allowed to disagree with the way the Board handles anything; no-one is allowed to try to bring it down. - Ed

## Sunday 19 April 9am Presentation Breakfast followed by the AGM

*Positions to be filled are:*

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Board Members

House Committee

Almoner

Providor

Catering Committee

Social & Fund Raising

Sponsorship

Please attend, as your input is important.

The breakfast is free, so come and support your fellow bowlers.