

Kitty **w**hispers

Special Edition

June 2016

NARRE WARREN BOWLS CLUB

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Our new President, Eric Sydenham, requested this special edition of Kitty Whispers to update members on the exciting new things happening at the club.

LATEST WHISPERS

Eric Sydenham
President
June 2016

Breaking News

In an effort to increase our player numbers, the Board has approved a special New Membership Package.

For a limited time, any new members will receive a club shirt, affiliation fees, clearance fee and one year's membership for \$89.

We have already had some success with this promotion; however, we need to get the message out to as many people as possible to maximise the impact of this offer.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Past President John Uren to the Club Board as Vice President. John has an amazing wealth of knowledge and experience of the club's operations, and has been invaluable to date in locating historical information needed to clarify some sponsorship issues. John and Wilma Stevenson are now working together as a subcommittee on sponsorship matters.

An order has been placed for new tables and chairs for the clubhouse. Round tables and stylish blue upholstered chairs will be delivered to the club between 28 June and 6 July. Apart from modernising the club décor, this will enable us to better cater for people wishing to use the club for social or business functions. (We have a number of bookings at the moment – one of which involves an engagement party with more than 140 guests attending). The tables and chairs are stackable and come with trolleys to facilitate easy storage.

A NEW CASH REGISTER WILL BE INSTALLED THIS WEEK, WITH SOME NEW FEATURES WHICH WILL ENABLE THE BAR STAFF TO BETTER HANDLE ANY FUNCTIONS WHERE THE BAR FACILITIES ARE REQUIRED.

The new Board has been arranging a series of meetings with local, state and federal representatives to introduce them to the new faces now managing the club. We have a number of major projects planned, and this provides a great opportunity to seek assistance through various levels of government for funding them.

Our Board met with Federal MP for Holt, Anthony Byrne this week to discuss our plans for extensions to the club, and future developments. Mr Byrne was so impressed with our long-term plans that he has asked us to consider fast tracking them with his assistance.

SOME NEW SECURITY MEASURES ARE BEING INSTALLED IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO HELP PROTECT THE CLUB AND ITS ASSETS.

A number of new measures are being pursued to reduce operating costs. We are waiting for final confirmation of several proposals which will have a significant effect on how our club operates in the future. Details will be released as soon as they are available.

The most significant outcome of this will be to keep membership costs as low as possible in the future, whilst still improving club facilities. We have already passed on a saving of \$20pa to members off their 2016/17 fees by keeping them at \$165 instead of the proposed increase to \$185.

We now have all levels of government fully committed to supporting the club in its development and expansion plans. We are currently applying for grants to assist with some of the projects we are undertaking.

A bowls demonstration will be held by our club at Fountain Gate Shopping Centre over the weekend of 16/17 July. Bowls Victoria is assisting us in staging this event, and we hope to have Australian Representative Barrie Lester and some of the State Junior Squad demonstrating bowls on indoor mats. This event is being organised by our club to promote our new membership package, introduce people to bowls and advertise our club as a venue for social functions.

We will need some volunteers from the club to help with distributing advertising material and liaising with prospective members. Please contact Eric or Arthur if you can help us over these two days.

Sadly, as I complete this newsletter, we are mourning the passing of another club stalwart.

Shirley Bell passed away suddenly whilst holidaying and bowling in Queensland.

John Heathcote passed away recently after several months of illness.

Both Shirley and John were outstanding club members who will be sorely missed. Our sympathies go out to their families.



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.

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OURS FOR LIFE

I was most remiss in last issue omitting our latest Life Member, **Stan Birkett's** picture and achievements. I did that issue in an almighty rush, sending it to the printer the day after the Annual General Meeting, and somehow put Stan's pic in the wrong folder.

Stan Birkett has been a member since November 1996 and has held more than a bowl for the club during this time.

Stan preceded me as Secretary, a position he held from 1999 till 2005/6. His knowledge and help in my first year was invaluable (I couldn't have done it without you, Stan). As anyone who has been the secretary of a club can attest, this is the most difficult and busy

position to hold. Stan always carried out his duties with his wry humour and the thoroughness that came from being a PMG employee for many years.

If the club needs volunteers, Stan's hand is always the first one in the air. He's cut the greens, looked after general maintenance and helped organise social nights. Also, he supports the club by attending any and every social event.

Stan's volunteering extended outside the bowls club, also, for local charitable organisation Casey North Information and Support Service, which he worked for - and did his best to recruit our members to - for many years. The 2012 Holt Australia Day Awards recognised Stan by bestowing on him a Casey's Volunteer Sporting Heroes Award.

He is certainly a most worthwhile addition to our Life Membership board.

Puns for Educated Minds

- 1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.*
- 2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.**
3. She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.
- 4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.*
- 5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.**
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
- 7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.*
- 8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.**
9. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
- 10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like an apple.*
11. Atheism is a non-prophet organisation.

NOTE TO MONEY RECEIVERS

“When receiving money and making out the appropriate receipt, if you make a mistake, just cancel it and make a new one.

**DO NOT THROW THE
CANCELLED RECEIPT
IN THE BIN.**

Then include the cancelled receipt with the fresh receipt and money. All receipts are numerically recorded and the Treasurer keeps pulling his hair out (what is left) trying to find where the missing receipt is.”

Geoff Miller, Treasurer

OBITUARIES



SHIRLEY BELL

It is with great sorrow we announce the loss of Shirley Bell. Shirley, who was the 'most decorated' and popular member at Narre Warren Bowls Club, was taken suddenly while on her annual getaway in Queensland.

Shirley started at NWBC in 1998, and very soon afterwards started playing pennant. A very competitive player, Shirley was ladies' club champion six times, and with Judy Naughton took out – or was runner up – in the ladies' club pairs 10 times. With Judy, she also entered the VLBA Group 20 competitions pairs, triples and fours, with many successes. She was also a member of the 2013 midweek pennant Div 12 Open Champions, and several times won (or was runner-up in) the 100-up. These are just some of the awards Shirley won.

But, Shirley's contribution was so much more than winning at bowls. She was Ladies' Treasurer from 2002-2011, until unification, and side captain for Tuesday bowls. Shirley was also a popular member on the bar. She took up this endeavour because there was often nobody to serve drinks during our ladies' invitation days, in which she was heavily involved. She also rarely missed an invitation day at other clubs, ensuring the ladies at these events reciprocated by attending ours.

She did lots of kitchen duty, including single-handedly cooking and serving the end-of-pennant celebratory snacks. She supported every social occasion, and often stayed behind to clean up. Shirley was a true club person; there was almost nothing she was asked her to do that she did not do so, and cheerfully.

Shirley Bell will be most sorely missed by Narre Warren Bowls Club.



Shirley Bell with husband Neville at our Christmas party



John Heathcote

It is with sadness we report the death of member John Heathcote on Saturday 4 June.

John joined the club in 1987, and was a 'second generation' member – his parents, Jack and Joyce, being foundation members.

John - and his wife, Jan – transferred to Noble Park in 2006, then returned to the Narre fold in 2012; he took no time getting back on deck, firstly as a selector, then a board member.

BIGGEST MORNING TEA



Our hard-working kitchen crew, from left: Buffy Scott (trainer), Robyn Neumann, Halima Hussaini, Taniesha Beswick, Melissa Mulhall, Nena Borovic, Sharon Hudson, Cherie Reid, Allan McLatchie, Tai Hua

Every year I enjoy providing a morning tea to help raise money for the Cancer Council. Cancer affects so many people and lives and it's great to help support a fundraiser that aims to fight the disease.

So, with the help and enthusiasm of the Preserving for Life Participants we were lucky enough to host a morning tea here at the Narre Warren Club. We enjoyed the morning and it was great to see that so many members came along to support the cause.

We raised more than \$300!

We would like to send a big hank you to all those who contributed to the morning tea.

Buffy Scott, Work For The Dole Trainer

Insults

“He had delusions of adequacy.” - Walter Kerr.

“He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire.” - Winston Churchill.

Lady to Winston Churchill: “If I were your wife, I would give you poison.: To which Churchill responded: “Madam, if I were your husband, I would take it!”

Sale of Existing Tables and Chairs

The first shipment of new clubhouse tables and chairs will be delivered during the last week of June.

The second - and final - delivery will follow in approximately two weeks (ie: the first two weeks of July).

Purchase of the existing clubhouse furniture will be offered to members on a first-come-first-served basis.

Enquiry to either PETER BOWMAN or SANDRA LAPHAM

Prices

Tables \$40 each

Chairs \$10 each

Immediately the first shipment is received the remainder of the existing furniture will be advertised on the club website. Should you wish to purchase any of these, please do not delay, as we will be disposing of them as quickly as possible given our current storage problems.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY
TRADESMAN'S
HAND TOOLS YOU
NO LONGER USE?**

Small pliers, screwdrivers, small spanners etc.

If so, why not bring them down to the club where they can be put to good use in the machinery shed.