Ashley Bates

[](http://www.ovensmurray.vic.bowls.net.au/image.asp?ID=1092&MenuID=About_Us/13033/0/,Legends/13084/0/)

Ashley began bowling in the 1987-88 season for Wodonga Golf (Wodonga Country Bowling Club).

The second full season was productive, as he won their Club Singles, Club Pairs, Club Triples and 100 up singles.

The move to Wodonga Bowls Club came in the 1990-91 season. The aim was to improve his bowls and try and play in the A1 pennant side. Ashley was quick to be noticed and was selected to play third for John Dawson in his first game in the A1s. He played third for most of that season and from there on has been a skipper at the club in the A1’s ever since.

In October 1992 State trials were scheduled for Corowa and a Group 6 side was selected to play to provide some practice and to make up the numbers, Ashley was included to play third for John Dawson. On the morning of the trials, due to an illness Don Sherman’s leader, Craig Elliot, could not play and Ashley was selected to lead for Don Sherman in the trials. After four terrific games, ( Paul Carey, another Group 6 legend ), and Ashley were selected to play in a series against South Australia.

So began a State career that has seen many ups and downs. At the end of 1993 having played 18 State games Ashley was dropped, due to some mediocre performances. He returned for a short while in 1995 to play 8 games as third for Mark Jacobsen. Then came a lean time and it wasn’t until the end of 1998 that he returned to play third for Phil Godkin and having had a successful series against Tasmania, Ashley was then promoted to Skip with Paul Dorgan as his third. They played 19 games with a win loss ratio of 11 to 8. Ashley was again dropped in 2000 but returned between May and December 2001 to play second for Paul Dorgan.

Again poor levels of consistency meant he was excluded from the side between 2002 and January 2005. When a few players were unavailable, Ashley returned to the side and skipped against NSW at Cabramatta in Sydney. After a winning series he went on to play second for Paul Dorgan for the Australian Sides Championships, where he achieved the 100 game milestone against Tasmania. After State trials in September 2005 he played well in the leading position and played lead for Paul Dorgan for the next three series.

In January 2006 Ashley was selected in the representative side to play against England’s Commonwealth Games team both in singles and in the pairs. Ashley’s state career finished in 2007 after 128 games in total.

Another chapter involving State Representation began in 2013, when selected for Victoria in the 60 & Over Round Robin team that plays all States and Territories in October each year. Selected as a skipper his rink has been very successful, helping to finish Runner-up to NSW in both 2013 and 2014. The 2015 series played at Queenbeyan was won by Victoria.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

* 128 State games for Victoria between 1992 and 2007.
* Numerous tournament victories both locally and in Victoria and in NSW.
* Winner of Wodonga Bowls Club:-
  + Club Singles; 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2006. 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2014 & 2015
  + Club Pairs; 1993, 1995, 1999, 2000, 2005 & 2007.
  + Club Fours; 1995, 1997
  + Member of the A1 Pennant team to win 19 Championships between 1990/91 and 2014/15
* Winner of Ovens & Murray East Association:-
  + Singles; 1991, 1993, 1994, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2004, 2005. 2008 & 2011.
  + Pairs; 1994, 1995, 1999, 2000, 2005, 2007, 2008 & 2009.
  + Triples (50 & Over); 2003
  + Triples (Open); 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 & 2011.
  + Fours; 1996, 1997, 2002, 2003, 2006 & 2007.
  + Champion of Champions; 1994, 1998, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 & 2010.
* Winner of Ovens & Murray Group 6:-
  + Singles; 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014.
  + Champion of Champions; 1998, 2004, 2010, 2011, 2012 & 2014.
  + Pairs; 1994, 2007 & 2009.
  + Triples; 2003, 2006, 2010 & 2016.
  + Fours; 1997, 2001, 2003, 200, 2006, 2007 & 2014.
  + Mixed Pairs; 1996-97, 1999-2000.
* Winner of Ovens & Murray Region 60 & Over :-

Singles 2013 & 2015,

* State Events:-
  + Winner State Fours 2001& 2016.
  + Runner up 2014.
  + Runner up Mixed Pairs 1999.
  + Runner up State Singles 2005.
  + Runner up State 60 & Over Singles 2014.
  + Third in State Champion of Champions 1998, 2004, 2012, 2013.
  + Victorian Championship of State Pennant. Member of the winning team 2004

National Finalist in Capita Singles in 1990.

Awarded an Australian Sports Medal in November 2000, in recognition of services to bowls.

Member of winning Victorian State Pennant Championships in 2004.

Twice member of the winning Victorian Team at the Australian Sides Championships.

128 Games for Victoria over 13 years playing all positions from lead to skip.

Appointed State Selector in 2008-09, and still holds position 2016. Was made Side Captain 2009-10-11.

Wildcard entry to Golden Nugget Singles ( Tweed Heads ) in 2011 and 2012.

Member of Wodonga Bowling Clubs A1 side winning 23 times in the 27 years spent at the club to 2016.